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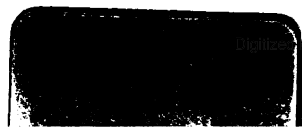
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THE
POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN

(WITH UPWARDS OF 100 ILLUSTRATIONS).

BY
FREDERICK A. PHILBRICK,
AND
WILLIAM A. S. WESTOBY.

Compiled and Published for
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.



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SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,
188, FLEET STREET.
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1881.

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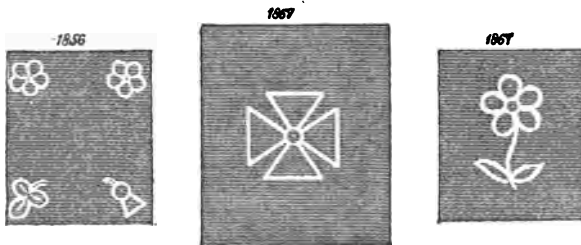
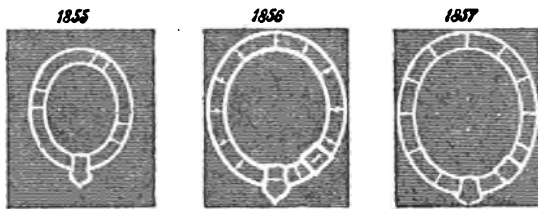
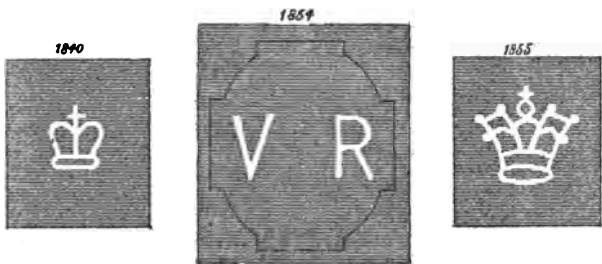
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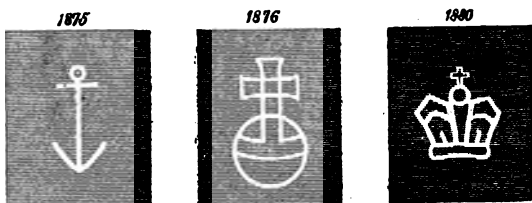
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1870

half penny



WATERMARKS OF POSTAGE STAMPS 1840-1880.

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PREFACE.

SHORTLY after the formation of the Philatelic Society, London, its attention was directed to the Postage Stamps of Great Britain, and several of the earliest meetings were devoted to their investigation.

The absence of sufficient *data*, added to the difficulty of obtaining reliable information with reference to circumstances which had taken place so many years previously, induced the Society to postpone the further consideration of the subject; and it was not till 1879 that the then Secretary was requested to prepare a digest of such information as had in the meanwhile been collected, and submit it for further examination.

On resuming the enquiry, it became evident that the preparation of a comprehensive list of the stamps involved much careful and minute attention. A general desire was also expressed that the work should not be confined to a mere catalogue, revised or annotated with such emendations as individual members of the Society might suggest at its meetings, but that an endeavour should be made to produce a more systematic and detailed history of the various postage and telegraph stamps that have been issued, with an account of some of the almost unknown, but highly interesting, essays and designs which from time to time had been produced during the gradual development of the British Postal System.

The President was unanimously requested to undertake the authorship of such a work, but at his request another member of the Society was associated with him in the task, and the papers in the Society's possession were placed at their disposition.

At an early stage the Authors found that the subject entailed so much independent investigation, and opened out such a wide field of enquiry, that it was necessary to reconsider the entire scope of the contemplated work, which at their instance, and with the assent of the Society, has assumed its present shape.

The volume makes no pretension to literary merit; indeed its very nature involves a certain amount of repetition, not to say tautology. Many matters of detail might possibly have been omitted without detriment, but as it was evident that the changes commenced in 1880 were only the precursors of others affecting the majority of the stamps in use, the Authors, warned by the difficulties attendant on their own researches, have recorded them, lest what now admitted of easy and accurate explanation should in a few years become difficult if not impossible to unravel.

While availing themselves of such materials as had already been collected, the Authors are entirely responsible for the facts stated in the following pages. Their sedulous endeavour has been to secure the greatest amount of accuracy possible in this the first connected account of the postage and telegraph stamps of Great Britain, to attain which every stamp, unless otherwise stated, has been described from the specimen itself. Care also has been taken to refer for information to none but primary sources, wherever such were accessible. Some delay has in consequence arisen, due partly to the lapse of time, which has removed the greater number of those who bore part in the original work, and compelled those who survive to consult books and other records for the details of transactions which

had faded from their memory. In addition, all English and foreign publications containing any reference to the subject have been passed in review, and the Authors believe they have not omitted to collate and verify every statement to be gathered from these sources which would throw any further light on the matter.

The Authors have gratefully to acknowledge the aid that has been readily afforded to them by the General Post Office, by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and by the former and present contractors for the supply of stamps; and last, but not least, to express their recognition of the assistance rendered by their Colleagues of the Society, and more especially their great obligations to its energetic Secretary, Mr. Burnett, for his invaluable counsel and help.

In now dedicating these pages to the Philatelic Society of London, the Authors venture to express the hope that their attempt to record some of the more interesting features connected with the issues of the postal and telegraph stamps of Great Britain will be deemed not altogether unworthy of the reputation of the oldest Society devoted to the Science.

FREDERICK A. PHILBRICK, *President.*

W. A. S. WESTOBY.

July, 1881.

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INTRODUCTION.



CHAPTER I.

THE OLD POST OFFICE SYSTEM.

THE exclusive privilege of conveying letters by post, and of taking the revenues derived therefrom, has always been claimed by the sovereigns of England as a right belonging to them *jure coronæ*, and this royal right and privilege has not only been recognised from the earliest times, but has been confirmed by a course of successive legislation up to the present day. But though the Post Office thus grew up as a royal institution, yet, when its business was more fully developed, and its profits grew larger, its management was gradually assumed by the State, and it has been converted, whether rightly or wrongly, into a source of national revenue.

So far back as the reign of King John entries are to be found of payments to *nuncii* for the conveyance of Government despatches, and entries of like payments may be traced in an almost unbroken series through the records of many subsequent reigns. In the reign of Henry III. these messengers commenced to wear the royal livery, but were obliged to provide themselves with horses until the reign of Edward I., when *posts** were

* The name took its origin from the *posts* or *posita* placed at intervals along the roads of the Roman Empire, where couriers were kept in readiness to carry despatches and intelligence on behalf of the State.

established where horses could be had on hire. In the employment of these messengers may be traced the first germ of the Post Office system in England; for it is probable that the office of "Master of the Postes," instituted by Henry VIII. early in the 16th century (mentioned by Camden in his *Annals*), originated in the supervision of them, and we find one Brian Tuke, afterwards Sir Brian, who was appointed to that office by Henry VIII., described as *Magister nunciorum cursorum sive postarum*. In 1545, Sir Brian Tuke was succeeded by Sir William Paget and John Mason, Esq., as joint Masters of the Posts under a similar designation; but it does not appear that these posts were employed for any other purpose than for the conveyance of Government despatches, and it was only by degrees that permission to make use of them was extended to private individuals.

A foreign post for the conveyance of letters from London to the Continent existed at the beginning of the 16th century, as the Flemings, says Stowe, in his *Surveye of London*, by long custom "pretended a right to appoint a Master of the Strangers' Post, and that they were in possession of from the year 1514." They retained this privilege down to the year 1558, when disputes arose between the Flemings and Italians regarding the right of appointing a Postmaster. These disputes were referred to the Privy Council, and it was finally settled, in 1581, that the Master of the Posts should have charge of both the English and foreign offices, under the title of "Chief Postmaster." This office was conferred by Queen Elizabeth on Thomas Randolph, who in 1567 had succeeded Sir John Mason as Master of the Posts, and who had previously been much employed by the Queen in her Scottish affairs.

Thomas Randolph was succeeded in the office of Chief Postmaster by Sir J. Stanhope, afterwards Lord Stanhope; and in 1591 a royal proclamation was issued for "redress of disorders in postes which convey and bring to and out of the parts beyond seas packets of letters," and "particularly to prevent the inconvenience both to our service and the lawfull trade of honest merchants, by prohibiting that no persons whatsoever should

take upon them publicly or privately to procure, bring to, or carry out any packets or letters to or from the countries beyond the seas, except such our ordinary posts and messengers for these parts, as either by our Master of the Postes or the Masters of the Postes general of those countries reciprocally should be found nominated for that kind of service." Command was also given to all mayors, sheriffs, justices, officers of customs, &c., "to make diligent search of all mails, budgets, and other carriages of such disavowed carriers, messengers, or suspected persons, and all such so discovered to apprehend and stay."

It is about this period that the first mention is found of packets sailing between Liverpool and Dublin, and Holyhead and Dublin.

Before the accession of James I, some towns in Scotland appointed special messengers to convey despatches to and from the Court; but on his accession the increased intercourse between England and Scotland led to an improvement in the system of horse posts. Orders were issued for the regular supply of horses to all "riding in post," authorising the owner to charge 2½d. per mile for the hire of each horse besides the "guide's groats." Horses were also to be kept expressly for the conveyance of the government despatches, which were to be forwarded within a quarter of an hour of their arrival, and travel at the rate of not less than seven miles an hour in summer, and five in winter.

It would seem that, although the abuses complained of in the preceding reign, with regard to letters coming from abroad, had been in some measure remedied, yet it was not so with letters sent abroad. In 1619 James I. instituted the office of Postmaster for foreign parts, who, according to Rushworth, "should have the sole taking up, sending and conveying, of all packets and letters concerning his service or business to be despatched into forraigne parts, with power to grant moderate salaries;" and he conferred the office on "Mathewe de Quester the elder, and Mathewe de Quester the younger." This appointment was considered by Lord Stanhope, the Chief Postmaster, as an inter-

ference with his privileges, and the dispute was only settled in 1632, after the accession of Charles I., by the retirement of Lord Stanhope, and the assignment of their office by the de Questers, under royal sanction, to William Frizell and Thomas Witherings, with prohibition to all others to intermeddle therewith "at their utmost peril."

It was in the year 1635 that, at the instance of Witherings, an attempt was made to establish some regular system of inland postage, though on a very limited scale. In that year Charles I. issued a proclamation ordering his postmaster for foreign parts, Thomas Witherings, to "settle a post or two to run night and day between London and Edinburgh, to go thither and back again in six days," and to take with them all such letters as should be directed to any post town in or near that road. Eight main postal lines throughout England were also authorised to be instituted. The rates of postage to be charged were fixed at 2d. for a single letter for any distance under 80 miles, 4d. up to 140 miles, 6d. for any longer distance, and 8d. to any place in Scotland. It was also ordered that 2½d. per mile should be paid to the several postmasters for every single horse carrying the letters, evidently showing that the sole mode of conveyance contemplated was by persons riding on horseback. In a subsequent proclamation, issued two years later, a monopoly of letter carrying was established, which has been preserved ever since in all the subsequent legislation regulating the Post Office.

In 1640 Witherings, who held the appointments of both inland and foreign postmaster, was superseded in both these offices for abuse of trust,* and they were sequestered into the hands of Philip Burlamachy, a London merchant, who was appointed to act in his stead under the immediate oversight of the King's principal Secretary of State.

* "The remonstrance of the grievances of all His Majesty's posts in England, together with the carriers and others, sustained by the unlawful projects of Thomas Witherings," addressed to the House of Commons in 1640, may be found in the library of the British Museum.

When the civil war broke out, the service, such as it was, was greatly interrupted. The monopoly of letter carrying, proclaimed by Charles, gave great offence, and in 1642 a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the matter, of which committee Edmund Prideaux, subsequently Attorney-General under the Commonwealth, was chosen chairman. After no small amount of contention, Prideaux, in 1644, was appointed "Master of the Posts, Couriers, and Messengers" by an ordinance of both Houses of Parliament, and proved both an able and energetic officer. "He established," says Blackstone, "a weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the country, thereby saving to the public the charge of maintaining postmasters to the amount of £7,000 per annum." For many years previously the establishment of the post had been a burden on the public purse; but in 1649, five years after his appointment, the net revenue reached £5,000.

In 1649 an attempt was made by the corporation of London to set up a rival Post Office for inland letters in opposition to that of the government; but Prideaux, who had then become Attorney-General, invoked the aid of the Council of State, which decided that "the office of postmaster is and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of Parliament." After this decision the corporation post was speedily suppressed, and the privilege of the sole right of conveying letters has never again been questioned.

In the year 1650 the practice of farming the Post Office revenues commenced, a practice which as regards some of the bye-posts was continued till the close of the last century. At first the revenues were farmed for £5,000; but subsequently, up to 1659, they were farmed to Mr. John Manley for £10,000. After the accession of Charles II. they were farmed for £21,500, and for a short period for double that amount; but in the year 1675 they were, by statute 15 Car. II. c. 14, settled by the king upon James Duke of York, afterwards James II., and when, on his accession, they reverted to, and again became attached to, the Crown, they had reached to £65,000 per annum.

Under the Protectorate, in 1656, an important statute was passed, which was afterwards re-enacted by 12 Car. II. c. 35. By this Act "to settle the postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland," the Post Office was regularly established by authority of Parliament, and it was provided that there should be one Post Office, and one officer styled the "Postmaster General for England and Comptroller of the Post Office," who should have the horsing of all through posts and persons riding post. Rates of postage were fixed for English, Scotch, Irish, and foreign letters, which continued substantially in force until the reign of Queen Anne, and the only non-governmental posts allowed to continue were those of the two Universities and the Cinque Ports.

In 1683 a Penny Post for the conveyance of letters and parcels between different parts of London and its suburbs was started by Robert Murray, an upholsterer, and subsequently assigned by him to William Docwray. By it all letters and parcels not exceeding a pound weight, or the value of £10, were conveyed within the city and suburbs for one penny, and for twopence within a circuit of ten miles. It appears, from the accounts given of it by Stowe, that district offices were opened in various parts of London, and receiving-houses were freely established. When its success became apparent, the Duke of York, on whom, as has been before mentioned, the Post Office revenues had been settled, complained of it as an encroachment on his rights. The case was brought before the Court of King's Bench, which decided that the new Post Office was an infraction of the privileges of the General Post Office and was part of the royal establishment, to which it was thereupon annexed. The Duke of York, however, appointed Docwray to the office of Controller of the District Post, an office which he appears to have held for some years. In 1694 a pension of £500 per annum was granted to him out of the revenues of the Post Office in recognition of his services; but he does not seem to have enjoyed it long, as he lost his office and emoluments in 1698, on certain charges of mismanagement being brought against him.

The London District Post, thus commenced, received legislative sanction in 1710 by the Act 9 Anne c. 10, and was improved in 1794.* The rates were increased in 1801, when it was made a Twopenny Post, and though the rates thus fixed ceased to be charged when the Act of 1839 came into operation, yet it continued to exist for several years after under the name of the London District Post, as an independent establishment

* By the Act 9 Anne c. 10, the charge of one penny was authorised to be levied on all letters passing or repassing by the carriage called the Penny Post, established and settled within the cities of London and Westminster and borough of Southwark, and parts adjacent, to be received and delivered within ten English miles distant from the General Letter Office in London.

In 1731, by Act 4 Geo. II. c. 33, after reciting that upon the application of the inhabitants of several towns and places, within ten miles, to be allowed to pay the messengers one penny on delivery, over and above the one penny paid on putting such letters in the post, this additional charge was authorised.

By 5 Geo. III. c. 25, the weight of letters or packets passing by the Penny Post was limited to 4oz., except in respect of such letters or packets as had first come through the General Post Office.

By an Act passed in 1794 an additional rate of one penny was made chargeable on letters conveyed *from* places beyond the cities of London and Westminster and the borough of Southwark, in like manner as letters *to* these places had been previously charged with an additional penny. It was also made optional for persons sending letters to pay the postage on posting them, or not, as they thought proper, except when the letters were to go by the general or foreign mails, in which case the payment was made compulsory.

In 1801, by 41 Geo. III. c. 7, an additional charge of one penny was imposed on all letters delivered by the Penny Post within the town delivery, and the Penny Post became the Twopenny Post. In 1805, by Act 45 Geo. III. c. 11, the rate for letters delivered beyond the limits of the cities of London and Westminster and the borough of Southwark was raised to 3d.

In 1831 the limits of the Twopenny Post were extended to all places within three miles of the General Post Office, and at the same time letters to be delivered by the general or foreign post were exempted from the twopenny rates if posted within the said limits. Two years afterwards the limits were again extended to places not exceeding twelve miles from the General Post Office, and so remained until the Act of 1839 came into operation.

separate from the General Post Office,* chiefly owing to the difficulties dependent upon the status of the officials of all classes in the two establishments. These difficulties were at length overcome, and the Metropolis having been subdivided into postal districts, the Twopenny Post, which since 1840 had ceased to exist except in name, was merged in the General Post. †

According to Chambers, ‡ the first legislative enactment for a Scottish Post Office was passed in 1695, prior to which time the posts out of Edinburgh had been few and irregular. About 1700 the posts between the capitals were so frequently robbed near the Border that Acts were passed, both by the Parliament of England and that of Scotland, making robbery of the post punishable with death and confiscation of moveables. About the year 1750 the mails began to be conveyed from stage to stage by relays of fresh horses, and to the principal places by post-boys; but the greater part were still carried by foot-runners. In April, 1776, the modern stage-coach was introduced into Scotland, performing the journey from London to Edinburgh in sixty hours. It was in the same year that the first Penny Post was established in Edinburgh by Peter Williamson, a native of Aberdeen; but his success soon induced others to attempt similar undertakings, when the authorities of the General Post Office, seeing the importance of this branch of business as a

* Although the name of "Twopenny Post" ceased to exist officially, yet letters posted at the receiving-houses of the District Post, the adhesive stamps on which were not obliterated there, were post-marked with the old T.P. hand-stamp.

† By a report of a commission of inquiry into the establishment, made in June, 1854, it was recommended that the Inland Office and the London District Office should be combined on a plan suggested by the Commissioners. This amalgamation, having been approved by the Lords of the Treasury, by a minute dated 28th July, 1854, was commenced to be carried into effect by Lord Canning, then Postmaster General; but was not completed till after the appointment of the Duke of Argyll, who succeeded him in November, 1855, and under whom the division of the Metropolis into postal districts was carried into effect in 1856.

‡ *Chambers' Encyclopædia, Post Office.*

source of revenue, gave Williamson a pension for the goodwill, and the Penny Post was attached to the general establishment.

On the 7th July, 1788, a direct mail between London and Glasgow was established. Previously to this the correspondence had passed through Edinburgh, where it was detained twelve hours.

But little is known of the early history of the Irish Post Office. As has been stated before, there is a mention of vessels plying between Liverpool and Dublin, and Holyhead and Dublin, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and in the reign of Charles I. packets between Chester and Dublin, and between Milford Haven and Waterford, conveyed government dispatches. After the Restoration, the rate of letter postage between London and Dublin was fixed at 6d.

Early in the reign of Queen Anne, in the year 1705, an Act was passed amending the laws then governing the Post Office; but in the year 1710 the whole law was completely remodelled by the Act 9 Anne c. 10, which continued to be the basis of all future legislation down to the year 1837. By its provisions a General Post and Letter Office was established within the city of London, from whence all letters and packets whatsoever "may be with speed and expedition sent into any part of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to North America and the West Indies, or any other of Her Majesty's dominions, or any country or kingdom beyond the seas, and at which office all returns and answers may likewise be received." Chief offices were established in Edinburgh, Dublin, New York, and in one of the Leeward Islands, and the whole were put under the control of an officer to be appointed by Her Majesty under the great seal by the name and style of "Her Majesty's Postmaster General." Rates of postage were settled under the Act for letters and packets within the British dominions, and also for letters to foreign parts. Authority was also given to erect cross-posts or stages, so that all parts of the country might have equal advantages as far as was practicable.

It does not appear that much was done in the way of establishing cross-posts until the year 1720, when Ralph Allen, Deputy Postmaster for Bath, proposed to the Government to establish a cross-post between Exeter and Chester by way of Bristol, Gloucester, and Worcester. He further proposed a complete reconstruction of the cross-post system, and by his representations of the advantages which would result from its adoption, he induced the Government to grant him a lease for life of all the cross-posts which should be established, at a rental of £6,000 a year. The enterprise proved highly remunerative, and at his death, in 1769, when the whole came under the control of the Postmaster General, the system had been extended over the greater part of the country.*

The rates of postage fixed by the Act of Queen Anne continued in force till the passing of the Act 5 Geo. III. c. 25, by which they were fixed at 1d. for a single letter under fifteen miles, 2d. under forty miles, 3d. under eighty miles, and so on. By this Act, sect. 2, authority was given to the Postmaster General to establish Penny Posts in other cities or towns, or the suburbs thereof, within the United Kingdom, similar to that existing in London, where such posts might be deemed by him to be advisable. The Act also conferred the exclusive right of conveying and collecting such letters and packets within the district so soon as a Penny Post was established to serve it. It also provided that all letters and packets brought by the inland or foreign post to the General Post Office in London, for delivery at any place beyond the limits of these departments of the General Post Office, and within the limits of a Penny Post Office, should be conveyed and delivered by the latter, and should be charged one penny for such delivery in addition to the rate of postage due to the General Post Office.

The powers thus granted were extensively employed. In 1835 there were 1,035 Penny Posts in England, 225 in Scot-

* When the "Bye Letter Office" was abolished in 1799, and its management transferred to the General Post Office, the profits had reached to the yearly sum of £200,000.

land, and 197 in Ireland. Many of these were established in and about large towns, such as Liverpool, Birmingham, &c. The principle which for the most part guided the Postmaster General in authorising them, was to select towns and populous neighbourhoods not situated in the direct line of general post conveyances, which were desirous of obtaining greater facilities of communication, provided that the establishment of such Penny Post would not prejudicially affect the General Post, and that there existed a reasonable expectation that it would yield sufficient to pay for its maintenance. This it was considered would be the case, if it could be shown that the receipts on its first establishment would suffice to cover two-thirds of the expenses.

Besides these there were other auxiliary posts, called "Guarantee Posts," by means of which parties in the country might obtain any such additional accommodation as they might desire, on consenting to bear the additional expense. Many Penny Posts existed for some years after the establishment of the General Penny Post, and letters are frequently found among old correspondence post-marked with the particular Penny Post through which they passed. These hand-stamped impressions were in blue, black, or red ink, the latter being used when the rate had been paid on posting. When the General Post extended its system by multiplying free deliveries, these smaller posts gradually fell before it, and entirely died out about the same period as that which witnessed the absorption of the Two-Penny Post by the General Post.

One of the greatest reforms of the postal arrangements during the last century was due, not to legislation, but to individual talent and enterprise. Up to that period the conveyance of the greater part of the mails was entrusted to postboys, riding on horseback. The letter-bags were ordinarily stowed away in a *malle* or valise strapped to the saddle, and the letters could scarcely have been very numerous, as Mr. Tegg relates that, so late as the 22nd February, 1779, an advertisement appeared, stating that the postboy carrying the mail had been robbed by

two foot-pads, with crape over their faces, of the whole mail, containing the bags for Liverpool, Manchester, Wigan, Chester, and thirty other towns, besides the Irish mail.

In the year 1783, Mr. John Palmer, the manager of the Bath and Bristol theatres, and a native of the former place, submitted to Mr. Pitt, who was then Prime Minister, a lengthy report, in which he propounded a scheme for remedying the existing glaring defects in the postal arrangements, by substituting coaches for the conveyance of the mails in place of the method then adopted. To lend to the scheme the prospect of a financial success, he endeavoured to show that, if his proposals were carried out, the revenues of the Post Office would be augmented, and that the public would gladly pay an additional charge for an efficient service. The proposals were referred to the officials of the Post Office, who in their zeal to smother the scheme seem to have outrun their discretion, and to have raised so many wild objections that they overstated their case. They concluded, however, by pronouncing the plan to be *impossible*, and it is not at all improbable that for this very reason Mr. Pitt, who did not know the meaning of the word, believing that the scheme was not only practicable, but would turn out to be profitable, determined that it should be tried. On the 24th July, 1784, the Secretary to the Post Office issued the following notice :—

“His Majesty’s Postmasters General * being inclined to make an experiment for the more expeditious conveyance of mails of letters by stage-coaches, machines, &c., have been pleased to order that a trial shall be made upon the road between London and Bristol, to commence at each place on Monday, the 2nd of August next,” &c. &c.

The coach did not, however, start till the 24th August, † per-

* The Earl of Tankerville and the Hon. H. Carteret. From the year 1690 down to 1823 there had ordinarily been two Postmasters General; but in the latter year the joint postmaster generalship was abolished.

† Mr. Lewins, from whose work much of the above account is taken, says the 8th August; but as this was a Sunday, we have consequently adopted the date given in other histories of the period.

forming the journey between London and Bath in fourteen hours, and to Bristol in fifteen, the other coach from Bristol to London reaching the latter place in sixteen hours, notwithstanding that the Post Office officials had just declared it was an impossibility to bring the Bath mail to London in sixteen or eighteen hours. On the same day Mr. Palmer was installed at the Post Office, under the title of Controller-General, in order to carry out his system, under which the punctuality, speed, and security of the post were greatly increased, and its revenues proportionately augmented.

The system thus inaugurated was gradually extended throughout the kingdom, until it was in its turn superseded by the development of railways, and the consequent establishment of travelling post-vans on the principal lines.

The introduction of the mail-coach system was the occasion of adding a further charge of one penny on each single letter, which was done by Act 24 Geo. III. c. 37. Mr. Pitt, in proposing the increase, said that the "changes he had to propose would by no means reduce the number sent. It was idle to suppose that the public would grumble at having to pay just one penny additional for valuable letters safely and expeditiously conveyed," an argument which appears somewhat curious when read by the light of those made use of in 1837.

The rates were again raised in 1797 and in 1805. In 1812 a further augmentation took place, and the rates then fixed continued to exist with but trifling changes up to the 5th December, 1839, when the uniform rate of 4d. was introduced. The following are the inland rates immediately prior to that period, on a letter consisting of a single sheet under one ounce in weight.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|----|---|---|-----|
| From any Post Office in England or Wales to any place not exceeding 15 miles | . | . | . | . | . | . | 4d. |
| Above 15 miles, and not exceeding 20 miles | . | . | . | . | . | . | 5d. |
| " 20 " | | | | 30 | " | . | 6d. |
| " 30 " | | | | 50 | " | . | 7d. |
| " 50 " | | | | 80 | " | . | 8d. |

| | |
|---|------|
| Above 80 miles, and not exceeding 120 miles | 9d. |
| „ 120 „ „ 170 „ | 10d. |
| „ 170 „ „ 230 „ | 11d. |
| „ 230 „ „ 300 „ | 12d. |

And so on in proportion, the postage increasing progressively 1d. for every single letter for every additional distance of 100 miles. No letter was to be rated higher than a treble letter, unless it should be one ounce in weight; and all letters of one ounce to be rated as four single letters, and every $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce in excess as a single letter. Scotch letters were taxed with an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which had been imposed as an extra charge on letters conveyed by a mail conveyance with more than two wheels, thus making the postage from London to Edinburgh 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a single letter, 2s. 3d. for a double one, and so on.

The privilege formerly enjoyed by members of the legislature of franking and receiving letters free was first claimed by the House of Commons in 1660, when a clause was inserted in a Post Office Bill of that year, but was struck out by the House of Lords, most probably because no mention had been made in it that the letters of that branch of the legislature should also pass free. However, Charles II. granted the privilege to members of both Houses by a warrant issued to the Postmaster General, and similar warrants were issued in successive reigns, until the right of franking became the subject of legislative enactment. As at first authorised, the privilege was open to abuse; for though the weight of each letter was not to exceed two ounces, yet there was no limitation as to numbers, and as it was only necessary that the cover should bear the signature of a member, he frequently supplied his friends with whole packets at a time. The abuse of the system had so increased that in 1763 it was made the subject of Parliamentary investigation, and in the following year, as a means of putting a check on the evil, it was enacted, by 4 Geo. III. c. 24, that the whole of the address should be in the handwriting of the member, and his signature appended. This did not wholly cure the evil, and in 1784 it was further enacted that, as an additional

check, all franks should be dated, and the name of the post town from which the letter was intended to be sent, and the day and month, should be written in full, and that the letters should be posted on the day they bore date.

In 1795 it was provided that letters franked by members of the legislature should not exceed one ounce in weight, and that no member should receive more than fifteen each day, nor frank more than ten. The privilege remained in force until the passing of the Act 2 and 3 Vict. c. 52, when it was abolished, and strict limits were placed on official franking.

So long as newspapers were taxed they were conveyed without charge by the Post Office. A duty of 1d. was first imposed in June, 1712. In that year Queen Anne sent a message to the House of Commons complaining of the "publication of seditious papers and factious rumours, by which means designing men had been able to sink credit, and the innocent had suffered." A committee of the House was appointed to consider how this evil could be remedied, and a tax was suggested as the best means of curbing these abuses of the liberty of the press. In 1724 the duty was changed to one penny on every sheet of certain dimensions, and a halfpenny on every half sheet. On the 28th May, 1776, the duty was raised to 1½d., and on the 12th August, 1789, to 2d. In 1794 it was increased to 2½d., and in May, 1797, to 3½d. The highest rate reached was in 1815, when the duty was fixed at 4d. In 1836, by Act 6 and 7 Will. IV. c. 76, the duty was reduced to one penny for each sheet of a certain size, and a halfpenny for a supplement, as will be noticed hereafter, until it was finally abolished in 1855, though retained optionally for postal purposes until the year 1870.

CHAPTER II.

THE NEW POST OFFICE SYSTEM.

IN order to trace the origin of the change effected in the Post Office system in 1839, it will be necessary to cast a retrospective glance at the general state of society in England at that period. A few years previously the Reform Bill had been carried by the force of public opinion. An agitation commenced against the "Taxes on Knowledge" had, in 1836, resulted in a large reduction in the tax on newspapers, and it was clear that the remainder of that tax was doomed, and that the abolition of the excise duty on paper was only a question of time. The *Penny Magazine* and other cheap periodical literature had been started, and had met with well-merited success. A system of education, commenced in 1834, had received further development, and had been organized under the direction of a Committee of the Privy Council; it was said on all sides that the "schoolmaster was abroad." Everything was to be done for the million, who made their voices heard above those of the upper ten thousand. Further than this, the manufacturing and commercial industries of this country were expanding; some of the principal lines of railway had been opened, and increased facilities of locomotion had promoted greater intercourse among the people. As the railways advanced and extended their iron roads over the country, the coaches which conveyed the mails were gradually dwindling away before them. A travelling Post Office had been put on the Grand Junction Railway between Birmingham and Liverpool on the 1st July, 1837, and it seemed that, in face of what the railways would be able to carry, the weight of the mails was no longer a matter to be

taken into account. Many departments of the State had been remodelled and improved; it would have been strange, therefore, if the Post Office, which by its high charges so fettered social intercourse and business transactions, had been suffered to escape from becoming the subject of enquiry. Yet up to the year 1833 "the Post Office was regarded by the public as a vast and mysterious but nearly perfect machine."*

In that year Mr. Wallace entered Parliament as member for Greenock, and almost immediately commenced a series of attacks on the Post Office. Among his first recommendations was the substitution of a charge by weight in lieu of the absurd and troublesome mode of charging by sheet, which not only rendered every enclosure subject to an additional rate, but involved the examination of each letter by the officials aided by a strong light. In the succeeding sessions of Parliament Mr. Wallace advocated other reforms, and was constantly on the watch to detect abuses and to direct public attention to the anomalies and evils of the existing system. Further, he urged the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into the management of the Post Office, which was subsequently granted by the Government.

But Mr. Wallace was not the only Post Office reformer of the day. As early as 1830 Mr. Charles Whiting, the well-known printer, of Beaufort House, Strand, submitted a proposal to the Government for the issue of stamped bands to frank a certain quantity of printed matter. Later on Mr. Charles Knight, the publisher of the *Penny Magazine*, and the works produced under the direction of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, suggested the use of stamped covers, but nothing was in reality effected; while the Government, which was quietly receiving a million and a half of net revenue from the Post Office, was indisposed to try any experiments which might by any possibility jeopardize the receipts, or to initiate any

* *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 529.

reform for which it did not appear that an absolute necessity existed.*

At length, in the year 1836, Rowland Hill, the son of the master of a school near Birmingham, and himself a schoolmaster and teacher of mathematics through all his early years, turned his attention to the defects of the existing postal system, and soon arrived at a conviction that it not only ought to be, but that it was capable of being, reformed. Firm in this conviction, and gifted with great perseverance, united to considerable powers of organization, he collected with infinite pains such an amount of information as satisfied his own mind that cheaper postage might be conceded to the public without risk of ultimate loss to the revenue. In January, 1837, he embodied his views and the results of his investigations in the form of a pamphlet, *Post Office Reform: its Importance and Practicability*. This pamphlet was distributed amongst personal friends, members of the Government and officials, and such members of Parliament and others as were likely to take an interest in the question. Rowland Hill, however, soon found out the truth of the aphorism, "that all great reforms take their rise in pressure from without, not from within." Accordingly, in February, 1837, another edition of the pamphlet was published and issued to the public under the title of *Post Office Reform* (Second Edition). The following brief sketch of the leading arguments he employed therein is taken from Chambers's *Book of Days*:†

He saw that the cost to the Post Office of a letter was divisible into three branches; first, that of receiving it and preparing it for the journey, which under the *régime* then existing was troublesome enough, as the postage varied not

* As instance of this may be cited, that when Colonel Maberly, the Secretary to the Post Office, proposed to the Lords of the Treasury to charge the postage according to the exact distance between the places where the letter was posted and delivered, and not according to the circuitous routes that the Post Office, for its own convenience, chose to send it, the concession was refused on the ground that it would probably entail a loss of £80,000 a year.

† CHAMBERS'S *Book of Days*. Edition 1866. Vol. i. p. 89.

only in proportion to the distance it had to travel, but also according as it was composed of one or more sheets of paper, even the minutest enclosures being treated as extra sheets, and subjecting it to double or triple postage. The duty of examining each letter, taxing it, and writing its proper postage upon it, was also a complicated transaction, occupying much time and labour; and he showed that each item of the charges in this first branch was exorbitant. The second branch was the cost of transit from Post Office to Post Office, and this expense, even for so great a distance as from London to Edinburgh, proved on careful examination to be no more than the ninth part of a farthing. The third branch was the cost of delivering the letter and receiving the postage, more than four-fifths of the letters then circulating being sent by the writers unpaid. He accordingly addressed himself to the simplification of the various processes. If, instead of charging according to the number of sheets or scraps of paper, a weight could be fixed, below which a letter, whatever were its contents, should only bear a single rate, much trouble would be spared to the Office, while an unjust mode of taxation would be abolished. But if the alteration rested there, a great source of labour to the Office would yet have remained, because the postage on each letter would still have to be augmented in proportion to the distance it had to travel. When, however, he had ascertained that the difference between the cost of transit in the case of a letter delivered at a distance of a mile from the office at which it was posted, and one posted in London and delivered in Edinburgh, was the insignificant fraction of a farthing, it became obvious that it was "a nearer approximation to perfect justice to pass over this petty inequality than to tax it even to the extent of the smallest coin of the realm;" and a uniform rate followed as a necessary consequence. With regard to the third head, all that could be done for lessening the cost attendant on the delivery of the letter and the receipt of the postage, was to devise some plan of prepayment which should be acceptable to the public, so long accustomed to throw the cost of corre-

spondence on the receiver of the letter, and not on the sender. It was also necessary that any such plan should avoid charging the duty of collecting the postage on the Receiving Office, and at the same time should relieve the letter-carriers attached to the Distributing Office.

It is by no means surprising that the scheme of reform thus portrayed by Rowland Hill, supported as it was by irrefutable facts and arguments, should commend itself to the minds of the public, whose sympathy was actively enlisted in its support. The Government nevertheless, backed up by the authorities at the Post Office, regarded it as all but impracticable; and the Earl of Lichfield, then Postmaster-General, went so far as to say, in the House of Lords, that "of all the wild and visionary schemes he had ever heard or read of, this was the most extraordinary."

At the time that Rowland Hill's pamphlet was published, the Committee of Post Office Inquiry, composed of Lord Duncannon (afterwards the Earl of Bessborough), Mr. H. Labouchere (afterwards Lord Taunton), and the present Duke of Somerset (then Lord Seymour), was holding its sittings for the purpose of examining into the condition of the "Twopenny Post." Before this Committee Mr. Hill gave evidence, and from the ninth report of the Commissioners, dated 7th July, 1837, it is evident that his views made considerable impression upon them. Not only did the Commissioners recommend the adoption of a uniform letter rate of one penny for letters under one ounce in weight throughout the metropolitan district of twelve miles round the General Post Office, which they considered might with advantage be increased to fifteen, but they made it the condition of the enjoyment of this reduction in the rate, that letters not exceeding one ounce in weight should be enclosed in stamped covers or envelopes of one penny; and exceeding that weight, and up to six ounces, in similar covers or envelopes of twopence. They further recommended that these covers should be prepared by the Government, and sold to the public "without any additional charge beyond the respective

duties of 1d. and 2d. ; whilst labels might also be prepared of such a form that they could be attached to other envelopes or covers of any size or description.”*

The Commissioners made their report, as before mentioned, on 7th July, 1837, and on the 23rd November following Mr. Wallace moved for a Committee of the House of Commons—

“To inquire into the present rates and modes of charging postage, with a view to such a reduction thereof as may be made without injury to the revenue ; and for this purpose to examine especially into the mode recommended for charging and collecting postage, in a pamphlet published by Mr. Rowland Hill.”

The Committee was nominated four days after, but did not commence its sittings until Parliament reassembled in February, 1838, when Mr. Wallace was chosen chairman, and thenceforward “concentrated his indefatigable efforts upon the work.”†

For the purpose of collecting evidence to be laid before the Parliamentary Committee in favour of the plan, “the Mercantile Committee on Postage” was organized. This body, composed of some of the leading merchants in London, under the presidency of Mr. Joshua Bates, of the house of Baring Brothers, raised a large sum of money for defraying the expenses of pressing the question on the attention of

* *Ninth Report of Commissioners, &c.*, 1837, vol. xxxiv. part i. page 433.

A great deal of controversial discussion has arisen as to how far Sir Rowland Hill was the author of the idea, or the inventor, of adhesive postage stamps or labels, on which, however, it is no part of our business to enter. The invention of stamped covers could certainly not be claimed by him or Mr. Knight, as they had been used nearly twenty years previously in Italy. Possibly also the idea of employing adhesive postage stamps was not that of Sir Rowland Hill exclusively ; but whether this be so or not, it would not detract one atom from his merits as the great postal reformer, who gave substantiality to ideas that were even to his own mind when proposed to the Commissioners very crude, and who initiated a system with which his name will be connected as long as the world lasts.

† See *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. page 295.

Parliament by petitions, public meetings, and the wide dissemination of information of all kinds bearing upon the proposed plan. The Parliamentary Committee sat sixty-three days, concluding its sittings in August. The Committee heard evidence, not only from the Postmaster-General, and all the principal officers of the Post Office and Stamp Departments, but also from Mr. Rowland Hill,* and eighty-three independent witnesses of various pursuits and grades, the greater part of whom were produced by Mr. W. H. Ashurst, who acted as solicitor and parliamentary agent to the Mercantile Committee, and published a summary of the evidence given in support of the plan, which went through two editions in 1838;† and it need scarcely be said that the great bulk of testimony was in favour of a complete and sweeping change. ‡

On the question of a uniform rate the Committee was equally divided in opinion, and it was only carried by the casting vote of the Chairman. A uniform rate of twopence per half-ounce was affirmed by an equally close division, a penny rate having been rejected by six to three. The report of the Committee, drafted by Mr. Warburton, was presented to the

* In *Household Words*, August 1st, 1857, Mr. Charles Dickens humorously relates how, "before the Committee, the 'Circumlocution Office' and Mr. Rowland Hill were perpetually in conflict on questions of fact, and it invariably turned out that Mr. Rowland Hill was right in his facts, and that the 'Circumlocution Office' was always wrong."

† *Facts and Reasons in Support of Mr. R. Hill's Plan for a Universal Penny Postage*. By W. H. Ashurst. London, 1838.

‡ As a practical illustration of the anomalous effects of the system of charging the postal rates under the then existing conditions of the law, Mr. Henry Cole (afterward Sir H. Cole, K. C. B.), who acted as Honorary Secretary to the Mercantile Committee, and Editor of the *Post Circular*, passed through the Post a Lilliputian letter enclosed in a cover, weighing altogether seven grains; but which, being composed of two separate pieces of paper, was charged as a double letter. At the same time he sent through the Post a huge letter, consisting of a single sheet measuring 35 by 23 inches; but which, being just under one ounce in weight, was only charged with a single rate. The originals of these were produced before the Parliamentary Committee; but *fac-similes* showing the gross absurdity of the practice were distributed by the Mercantile Committee.

House in March, 1839, and in substance stated, that as regards the scheme proposed by Mr. Rowland Hill, the strange and startling facts brought forward by him had been borne out by the evidence, and they gave their opinion that the rates of postage were so high as materially to interfere with trade and commerce; that illicit means were employed to evade the payment of these heavy charges; and that all classes, for the same reason, sought to correspond free of postage when possible; and that altogether the existing state of things acted most prejudicially to commerce, and to the social habits and moral condition of the people.

The Committee, amongst other conclusions they arrived at, were of opinion that the principle of a low, uniform rate was just in itself, and when combined with prepayment and collection by stamps would be exceedingly convenient, and highly satisfactory to the public.

As regarded the rate of charge, the Committee further reported that in their opinion the establishment of a penny rate would not, after a temporary depression, result in any ultimate loss to the revenue. As, however, the terms of their appointment precluded them from recommending any plan which involved an immediate loss, they restricted themselves to suggesting a uniform twopenny rate.

As soon as the Session of 1839 commenced, the Mercantile Committee was again at work, and public meetings were held in various large towns in support of the scheme. Up to July of that year no less than 2,007 petitions, bearing 262,809 signatures, were presented to Parliament, many of which were from public bodies, the Common Council of the City of London being amongst the number.

Mr. Hill also contributed his share to the work by issuing, on the 13th June, 1839, a paper "On the Collection of Postage by means of Stamps," in which he indicated the kinds of stamps he considered it would be best to employ; and this he followed up by another paper on the 1st July, entitled, "Facts and Estimates as to the Increase of Letters," in which he predicted that

the result would in the first year show at least an addition of fivefold to the number of letters then passing through the Post.*

Although the scheme was neither patronized by the Government nor by the Opposition, and was discountenanced by the whole body of the Post Office authorities, yet in presence of the manifest will of the public the Government could no longer resist the pressure from without. Accordingly, on the 5th July, 1839, Mr. Spring Rice, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on the Post Office Acts. He then explained, that though the Select Committee had suggested a twopenny rate, he intended to propose one of a penny, because he had been convinced by the arguments and evidence laid before that Committee, that the latter expedient would involve less loss to the revenue than the former, and he concluded by moving a resolution on which to ground a Bill to carry this into effect. On the bringing up of the report, the resolution was opposed, but was carried by a majority of upwards of 100, and the Bill passed through its various stages without encountering much further opposition either in the House of Commons or the House of Lords, receiving the Royal assent on the 17th August, 1839, when it took its place in the Statutes at large of the Realm as 2 and 3 Vict., c. 52, and is intituled, "An Act for the further Regulation of the Duties on Postage until the 5th day of October, 1841."†

The Act, after reciting that it was expedient to reduce the present rates of inland postage on letters to one uniform rate of one penny charged on every letter of a given weight, pro-

* See *Post Circular* for 1839.

† When Parliament was prorogued on the 27th August Her Majesty, in her speech on the occasion, referred to the Act in these terms: "It has been with much satisfaction that I have given my consent to a reduction of the postage duties. I trust that the Act which has passed on this subject will be a relief and encouragement to trade, and that by facilitating intercourse and correspondence it will be productive of much social advantage and improvement. I have given directions that the preliminary steps should be taken to give effect to the intention of Parliament as soon as the inquiries and arrangements required for this purpose shall have been completed."

ceded to authorize the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, by Warrant under the hands of three or more of them, to fix the rates, and whether the charge was to be paid on posting the letter or on its receipt, until the 5th October, 1841, ten days' notice in the *London Gazette* being given of the rates and of any change therein; and full powers were given to alter and reduce the rates of postage. The privilege of franking was taken away from members of both Houses of Parliament, and official franking was to be exercised under strict regulations. Power was also given to the Lords of the Treasury to issue stamped paper and covers for letters, and to provide stamps and dies. The duties were constituted stamp duties, and placed under the care and control of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and many other provisions were made by the Act which it is not necessary to notice; but in effect the whole law on the subject was amended, and in substance forms the legal basis on which the Post Office as at present constituted is regulated.*

The measures which the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury adopted for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act will form the subject of the next chapter; but before entering upon these it will be useful to follow the course of legislation down to the present day, so far as it may be necessary to show what the Post Office really is, and in what its functions consist.

On the 10th August, 1840, the Act 3 and 4 Vict. c. 96, intituled "An Act for the regulation of the Duties of Postage," received the Royal assent. By this Act the charges, which by the former Act had been only authorized to be made temporarily, were rendered perpetual, and further regulations made as to the duties on letters and newspapers, whether inland, colonial, ship, or foreign. Double rates were imposed on all letters not prepaid and on those deficiently paid to the extent of the deficiency. Proper and sufficient dies for the rates of one penny and twopence, and any other rates or duties of any other value

* The Board of Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes was in 1849 united with that of the Commissioners of Excise, and consolidated into one Board under the denomination of the "Commissioners of Inland Revenue."

or amount as might be decided by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury were authorized to be provided. Heavy penalties were imposed on forgers, and persons using stamps fraudulently ; provisions were made for the sale of stamps by persons to be licensed ; power was given authorizing the preparation of " moulds, frames, instruments, and machinery," to make paper to be used as covers, envelopes, or stamps, which paper should " have such distinguishing words, letters, figures, marks, lines, threads, or other devices, worked into or visible in the substance of the same, as the Commissioners of Excise* should from time to time order and direct," with power to alter and vary the same. The paper when made was to be delivered over to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and the improper manufacture of such paper, dies, or plates was made felony, and having possession of or buying such a misdemeanour. Various provisions were also made regulating the postage on newspapers, Parliamentary proceedings, &c., and the franking privilege was entirely abolished except as regarded official franking.

Many other Acts of Parliament have been passed in succeeding years for the purpose of enlarging the powers of the Post Office, and developing the system inaugurated in 1840 ; but it would be foreign to the purpose of this treatise to refer to them further, especially as they are accessible to all. It is sufficient to state that, under the provisions of these various Acts, full powers have been conferred on the Post Office, not only to carry on its regular business, but to issue money orders,† to receive deposits as a Savings Bank, to insure lives,

* At this period paper was an exciseable article, and could only be lawfully manufactured under the supervision of the Officers of the Excise.

† The Money Order Office was originally founded in 1792, by three of the Post Office officials, as a private speculation. On the 6th December, 1838, it was made a branch of the General Post Office, and organized under the direction of a small staff. Its operations are now not merely confined to the United Kingdom, but extend to the colonies, and to many of the countries within the Postal Union. The growth of its business has been very rapid. In 1839 orders were issued for £313,124, while in the year ending 31st March, 1880, the amount was upwards of twenty-six millions sterling.

to grant immediate and deferred annuities, to issue licenses for the Inland Revenue Department, &c. Wherever powers are required which involve any charge upon or risk to its revenue, or wherever any alterations pertaining to its structure are necessary, the intervention of Parliament must be obtained ; but in all that relates to the machinery by which the intentions of the Legislature are to be carried into execution, this is effected by the powers vested by Parliament for this purpose in the Lords of the Treasury ; while all the endless details in the direction and management of this vast establishment are in the hands of the Postmaster-General.

Besides, therefore, the large body of statute law by which the Post Office is governed and its privileges protected, there is a much larger administrative one, consisting of Treasury Warrants issued by the Lords of the Treasury, under the powers conferred upon them by Parliament.* These are published in the *London Gazette* from time to time as they are issued, and it has been a laborious as well as an uninteresting task in compiling these pages to wade through its files, where these tautological documents lie buried and well-nigh forgotten. Still the work was necessary, as accuracy in dates and other details has been thereby in many cases insured.

Before quitting this branch of the subject it appears requisite to make some particular reference to an Act passed in 1868, empowering the Government to purchase the inland telegraph system, which up to that period had been in the hands of separate and independent companies, who fixed their own rates of charge.

* The relative functions of Parliament and of the Lords of the Treasury may be seen more clearly from the following enactment contained in 34 and 35 Vict. c. 30. By sect. 1 of that Act it is enacted that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may from time to time by Warrant under their hands reduce the rates of postage to be charged for the use of Her Majesty on letters sent by Post between places in the United Kingdom, and regulate the scale of weights according to which such rates are to be charged ; so, however, that the lowest rate of postage be not less than one penny.

By the Act 31 and 32 Vict. c. 110, intituled "An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire, work, and maintain Electric Telegraphs," called the "Telegraph Act, 1868," the Postmaster-General was empowered to purchase undertakings of telegraph companies, and to enter into contracts with certain railway companies for the use of their telegraph lines. He was also authorized to make regulations for the conduct of the business, and to fix charges, as also to enter into special agreements with proprietors of newspapers and others. Payments were to be made in stamps. The property in telegraph messages, as in letters, was vested in the Postmaster-General, and penalties provided against disclosing or intercepting messages.

This Act was amended in the following and subsequent Sessions of Parliament, and the whole system of internal communication by means of the electric telegraph, so far as the general public is concerned, became vested in the Post Office; the payment of the duties on messages being at first made by means of the ordinary postage stamps.

There can be but little question that the amount which the Government was compelled to pay by way of compensation for the purchase of the monopoly enjoyed by the telegraph companies was very much in excess of what was contemplated when the Act was passed in 1868. It was probably therefore not altogether desirable in the view taken by the officials responsible for the purchase, to issue a separate set of stamps for this department, and thus distinguish the accounts of the Telegraphs from those of the Post Office, and permit the public to see the financial result of the transfer of the telegraphs to the Government. The confusion in the accounts between the telegraph and postal systems at last attracted the attention of Parliament, and became the subject of investigation by it; so that since the commencement of the year 1876 the accounts of the two systems have been kept entirely separate and distinct, and stamps have been issued specially for telegraphic purposes, the employment of postage stamps for the payment of the duties on messages being now strictly prohibited.

CHAPTER III.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

So soon as the Act establishing the new system of a uniform Penny Postage rate had received the Royal Assent, the Lords of the Treasury lost no time in making arrangements for giving effect to its provisions, and accordingly the following notice appeared in the public journals on the 6th September, 1839 :

“A copy of the minute of the Board of Treasury relative to carrying into effect the Act for establishing a reduced uniform Rate of Postage.

“My Lords read the Act for the Further Regulation of the Duties of Postage, which received the Royal assent on Saturday, the 17th inst.

“By this Act My Lords are invested with a power of carrying into effect the reduced uniform rate of postage contemplated by Parliament, either according to the present mode of collecting the postage, or by prepayment, collected by stamps, compulsory or optional.

“My Lords feel the importance of the discretion with which Parliament has invested them, affecting as it must the convenience of the public, the collection of the revenue, as well as the security and facility of the transmission of the correspondence of the country.

“In comparing the advantages which may arise from the plan of prepayment by means of stamps, if such plan should be adopted, much must depend upon the stamp which may be employed. For the convenience of the public, it is of the greatest importance that the mode selected should afford every facility for obtaining and using the stamp. It is also clear that the charge which will fall upon the public in the shape of extra payment on account of the stamp itself, in addition to the penny rate, must vary according to the nature of the stamp

adopted. In the course of the inquiries and discussions on the subject several plans were suggested, viz., stamped covers, stamped paper, and stamps to be used separately, and to be applied to any letter of whatever description, and written on any paper.

"Before My Lords can decide upon the adoption of any course, either by stamp or otherwise, they feel it will be useful that artists, men of science, and the public in general, may have an opportunity of offering any suggestions or proposals as to the manner in which the stamp may best be brought into use. With this view My Lords will be prepared to receive and consider any proposal which may be sent in to them on or before the 15th October, 1839.

"All persons desirous of communicating with My Lords on the subject are requested to direct to The Lords of the Treasury, Whitehall, marked 'Post Office Stamp.'

"My Lords will be prepared to award a premium of £200 to such proposal as they may consider most deserving of attention, and £100 to the next best proposal.

"My Lords will feel at liberty to adopt for the public service any of the suggestions which may be contained in any communication made to them, except, of course, where parties have any rights secured by patent.

"The points which the Board consider of the greatest importance are :

- "1. The convenience as regards the public use.
- "2. The security against forgery.
- "3. The facility of being checked and distinguished at the Post Office, which must of necessity be rapid.
- "4. The expense of the production and circulation of the stamps.

"My Lords will be prepared to receive and consider proposals from foreign countries, and they desire that a copy of this minute be transmitted to Lord Palmerston, and that his Lordship be requested to take such measures as he may deem most advisable through her Majesty's Ministers abroad for the purpose of making known the intentions of this Board.

"They desire also that Lord Palmerston be requested to procure for my Lords through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris information respecting the system of stamps adopted in France, and specimens of the stamped impressions used in that country.

"Transmit a copy of this minute to the Postmaster-General for his information and guidance.

"Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, August 23rd."

The public was certainly not behind hand in offering their "proposals and suggestions" to "My Lords," who by the 15th of October had received offers of advice and assistance from some two thousand six hundred "artists, men of science, and the public in general." Amongst these were proposals emanating from Mr. Stead, of Norwich; from Mr. Dickinson, the paper-maker; from Mr. Sievier, the eminent sculptor; from Mr. Cheverton, the inventor of a machine for embossing, &c. &c.; but the greater part of these proposals and suggestions were not accompanied by any designs, and such designs as were sent in were for the most part pen-and-ink sketches or drawings. In some instances, however, a large number of specimens or illustrations were submitted for consideration, which was more particularly the case as regards the proposals submitted by Mr. Charles Whiting, who sent in at least a hundred samples of the graphic art, some of which were then in use at his establishments, while others embodied his own ideas of the mode in which Mr. Rowland Hill's plan should be carried into effect.

The examination and discussion of such a mass of proposals and suggestions, many of which were as absurd as they were impracticable, necessarily occupied a considerable time, and already two valuable months had been lost. In fact, "My Lords" did not find much wisdom in the multitude of their counsellors, and no better suggestions were offered than those previously propounded by Mr. Rowland Hill, consisting in the adoption of stamped covers of half sheets of paper, stamped envelopes, and adhesive stamps or labels.*

Before any final decision could, however, be arrived at, it was necessary that practical engravers, printers, paper-makers, and others, should be consulted, and that various experiments should be made. Should it be decided to provide envelopes and stamps, the lowest calculation fixed the end of March as the earliest possible period at which their issue could be accomplished. The public were growing impatient to see

* *On the Collection of Postage by Means of Stamps*, by Rowland Hill. Bayswater, June 13th, 1839.

the new system brought into operation; but considerable difficulty was apprehended in giving immediate and full effect to it previously to a decision having been arrived at with regard to the stamps. It was anticipated that the substitution of the principle of charging by weight for that of charging by separate pieces of paper, and the consequent necessity of weighing every letter, would entail enormous pressure on the officials when the amount of the postage had to be paid in cash, and the postage marked on each letter.

Accordingly, as appears from a Minute of the Treasury, dated the 12th November, 1839, "My Lords," having again met, and again read the Act of Parliament, proceeded to discuss the question of adopting temporarily some intermediate measure whereby the officers of the Post Office might obtain some practice in weighing before full effect was given to the uniform penny rate. To avoid the risks of "irregularities which might occur, and the inconveniences that might result," they determined to introduce a uniform rate of fourpence for a short period,* and gave orders for the preparation of a Treasury Warrant to carry it into effect. This Warrant appeared in the *London Gazette* of the 22nd November, 1839, and the material parts are as follows :

"Whereas by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, intituled 'An Act for the further Regulation of the Duties on Postage until the 5th day of October, 1840,' power is given to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, by Warrant under their hands, to alter, fix, reduce, or remit, all or any of the Rates of British or Inland, or other Postage payable by law on the transmission of Post Letters, and to subject such letters to rates of Postage according to the weight thereof, and a scale of weight to be

* Mr. Lewins (*Her Majesty's Mails*, p. 125) attributes this action of the Lords of the Treasury to an intention of establishing a uniform fourpenny rate, and that having subsequently discovered the mistake they had made, they proceeded to rectify it by the publication of the Warrant of 31st January, 1840. This Treasury Minute clearly shows that this notion is erroneous, and that the reduction to fourpence was only intended as a temporary measure.

contained in such Warrant (without reference to the distance or number of miles the same may be conveyed), and to fix and limit the weight of letters to be sent by the Post, and from time to time by Warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what time the rates which may be payable are to be paid ; that is to say, whether on posting the letter, or on the receipt thereof, or at either of those times at the option of the sender, provided that all such Warrants should be inserted in the *London Gazette* ten days at least before coming into operation, and should within fourteen days after making the same be laid before both Houses of Parliament (if then sitting), or otherwise, within fourteen days after Parliament should meet."

"And whereas an Act was passed in the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, cap. 34, intituled 'An Act for the Regulation of the Duties of Postage;' and another Act was passed in the same Session, cap. 76, intituled 'An Act to impose Rates of Packet Postage on East India Letters, and to Amend certain Acts relating to the Post Office;' and another Act was passed in the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, cap. 97, intituled 'An Act for imposing Rates of Postage on the Conveyance of Letters by Packet Boats between places in the Mediterranean and other parts.'

"Now we, the undersigned (being three of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury), do, in exercise of the powers or authority in us for such purposes vested in and by the said first-mentioned Act, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, by this Warrant under our hands, order and direct that this present Warrant shall come into operation on the 5th day of December next; and that all letters not being by law specially exempted from postage, which on or after that day shall be posted in any town or place within the United Kingdom, or within any of the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, and Man, or shall be brought from parts beyond the seas to any port or place within the United Kingdom or the said islands by any packet boat or private vessel, shall be subject to the several regulations and rates hereinafter contained.

"And we further order and direct that on and after the said 5th day of December next the present practice of charging the rates of postage on letters transmitted by the General Post consisting of more than one sheet of paper, or containing any enclosure, shall be wholly discontinued, and thenceforth all letters of whatever description transmitted through the

General Post, and legally chargeable with postage, shall be charged by weight, as hereinafter mentioned.

“And we hereby fix and limit the following scale of weight of letters to be transmitted through the General Post, and we subject such letters on and after the said 5th day of December next to the following rates of postage; that is to say:

“On every letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken one rate of postage.

“On every letter exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and not exceeding 1 oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken two rates of postage.

“On every letter exceeding 1 oz., and not exceeding 2 oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken four rates of postage.

“On every letter exceeding 2 oz., and not exceeding 3 oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken six rates of postage; and

“On every letter exceeding 3 oz., and not exceeding 4 oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken eight rates of postage; and for every ounce in weight above the weight of four ounces there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage, and every fraction of an ounce above the weight of four ounces shall be charged as one additional ounce.

“And we order and direct that no letter exceeding 16 oz. in weight shall in any case be forwarded by the General Post between places within the United Kingdom and the said islands, or from the said United Kingdom and the said islands to parts beyond the seas.

* * * * *

“And we hereby fix and limit the following rates of postage to be paid to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the use of Her Majesty on and after the 5th day of December next on the letters next hereinafter mentioned, and we order and direct the same to be charged and paid accordingly; that is to say:

“INLAND LETTERS.

“On all letters not by law specially exempted from postage, and not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight, transmitted by the General Post between places within the United Kingdom or between the said islands, or between the United Kingdom and the said islands (not being letters sent to or from parts beyond the seas), there shall be charged and taken one uniform rate of postage of fourpence, without reference to the number of sheets or pieces of paper or enclosures of which the same may be composed, or to the distance or number of miles the same shall be conveyed.

“ On all such letters, if exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken progressive and additional rates of postage (each additional rate being estimated at 4d.) according to the scale of weight and number of rates hereinbefore fixed and declared.

* * * * *

“ And we order and direct that all additional rates now payable by law on all letters transmitted by post to or from Ireland by way of Holyhead, or in respect of the Menai Bridge, and by way of Conway and Chester in respect of Conway Bridge, and by way of Milford and Waterford, and also the additional rate of one halfpenny on letters conveyed by the post in any part of Scotland by a mail carriage with more than two wheels shall on and after the said 5th day of December next be wholly remitted, and shall cease to be payable.

“ That all additional rates for letters originally sent by the General Post to places within the United Kingdom, or the said islands, directed beyond the limits of the General Post, and delivered by any Twopenny Post or Penny Post, or originally sent by any Twopenny or Penny Post, and afterwards passing through the General Post, shall be remitted and cease to be payable, except on letters franked or exempted by law from the General Post rates, but subject to the Twopenny or Penny Post rates, which letters shall still continue liable to and chargeable with the Twopenny and Penny Post rates when transmitted by any such post.

“ That on all letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight, and not being by law specially exempted from the Twopenny and Penny Post rates, transmitted by any Twopenny or Penny Post in London or Dublin, and not having passed through, or being intended to pass through, the General Post, there shall on and after the said 5th day of December next be charged and taken a rate of one penny only, provided such postage be prepaid at the time of posting the same. But in case any letter not being by law specially exempted, as aforesaid, transmitted by any such Twopenny or Penny Post, shall not be prepaid when posted, or shall exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight, there shall be taken the same rate of postage as is now payable by law thereon.

“ That on all letters not specially exempted from Penny Post rates transmitted by any Penny Post in the United Kingdom or the said islands, other than London and Dublin, and not having passed through, or being intended to pass through the

General Post, there shall on and after the 5th day of December next be taken a rate of one penny as at present.

“That no letter shall be sent by any such Twopenny or Penny Post exceeding 4 oz. in weight unless the same shall have originally passed, or shall be intended to pass, through the General Post, and in such last-mentioned cases not exceeding the weight of 16 oz., unless specially authorized by this Warrant as aforesaid.

“That all printed newspapers, Parliamentary proceedings, printed votes, and proceedings of the colonial legislatures, printed prices current, commercial lists, periodical publications posted at Falmouth, unstamped publications, bankers' parcels, patterns, samples, plantation accounts, deeds, books, pamphlets, and other printed papers, soldiers' and seamen's letters, and other letters, articles and things which may now by law be sent by post under certain regulations free of postage, or at reduced rates of postage, shall continue to have the benefit of all exemptions and privileges they now enjoy, and shall, if forwarded in conformity with such regulations, be charged with the same respective amounts of postage as are now by law payable in respect thereof, subject nevertheless to all the regulations and liabilities now in force respecting the same.

* * * * *

“As witness our hands this 22nd day of November, 1839.

“MELBOURNE,
“F. BARING,
“H. TUFNELL.”

At the end of the month of December following, the Lords of the Treasury being satisfied with the result of the experiment of the fourpenny uniform rate, determined to give full effect to the provisions of the Act, and ordered a Warrant to be drawn up for that purpose. They also came to the decision of providing for the issue of stamped covers, stamped envelopes, and adhesive stamps or postage labels; and at the instance of Mr. John Wood, the Chairman of the Board of Stamps and Taxes, they decided on the issue by that department of a stamp to be embossed on any kind of paper which the public might send in for that purpose, under regulations to be made by the department. These decisions were embodied in a Minute dated

26th December, 1839, which, so far as it relates to the preparation and application of postage stamps, was to the following effect :

“ Their Lordships, upon full consideration, have decided to require that as far as practicable the postage of letters shall be prepaid, and to effect such prepayment by means of stamps. Their Lordships are of opinion that the convenience of the public will be consulted, more especially at first, by issuing stamps of various kinds, in order that everyone may select that description of stamp which is most suitable to his own peculiar circumstances ; and with a view of affording an ample choice, their Lordships are pleased to direct that the following stamps be prepared :

“ **FIRST.** Stamped Covers ; the stamp being struck on pieces of paper the size of half a sheet of quarto letter paper.

“ **SECOND.** Stamped Envelopes ; the stamp being struck on pieces of paper of a lozenge form, of which the stationers and others may manufacture envelopes.

“ **THIRD.** Adhesive Stamps ; or stamps on small pieces of paper with a glutinous wash at the back, which may be attached to letters either before or after they are written ; and

“ **FOURTH.** Stamps to be struck on paper of any description which the public may send to the Stamp Office for that purpose.*

“ The paper for the first, second, and third kinds of stamps to be peculiar in its watermark or some other feature, but to be supplied to the Government by competition.

“ My Lords direct that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes and the Commissioners of Excise should receive the official directions to take the necessary steps, in conjunction with the Postmaster-General, for the preparation of the stamps herein enumerated.

“ Although the necessary experiments and investigations which have been conducted under the direction of this Board

* This portion of the minute was subsequently modified so far as regarded the stamp being struck on any description of paper sent in by the public, and was confined to paper supplied by the Government, until, in 1855, power was given by the Act 18 and 19 Vict. c. 78 to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to stamp paper sent in by the public under such regulations as the Lords of the Treasury should make or sanction in that behalf.

are already far advanced, My Lords fear that a considerable time will be required for completing the preparation of the dies, plates, and machinery (much of which is unavoidably of a novel construction) necessary for the manufacture of the stamps; and being desirous of affording to the public with the least possible delay the full advantage of the intended reduction in postage, their Lordships propose at once to effect such reduction.

“On the use of stamps, however, My Lords have fully decided. They will be prepared with the least possible delay, and when ready due notice will be given of their introduction.”

On the day following the date of the above-mentioned minute a Warrant was signed and published in the *London Gazette*, 28th December, 1839, which (omitting such formal clauses and regulations as do not immediately concern our subject), after reciting the powers conferred on the Lords of the Treasury by the Act of the previous session in similar terms to the recital in the previous Warrant, and also reciting the previous Warrant, proceeded as follows :

“Now we, the undersigned (being three of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury), do by this Warrant order and direct that the said Warrant of the 22nd day of November now last, and the rates thereby fixed and directed to be charged shall be and the same are hereby repealed from and after the 9th day of January, 1840 (except as to any letters posted in or brought into the United Kingdom on or before that day, and also except as to any duties of postage which shall have become due under or by virtue of such Warrant, which may be recovered as if the same had continued in force).

“And we hereby further order and direct that this present Warrant shall come into operation on the 10th day of January, 1840, and that all letters which on or after that day shall be posted in any town or place within the United Kingdom, or shall be brought from parts beyond the seas to any port or place within the United Kingdom, or shall be sent between the United Kingdom and places beyond the seas, or between any of the places hereinafter mentioned, shall be subject to the several regulations and rates hereinafter contained.

“And we further order and direct that letters transmitted by the post shall not in future be charged with the British rates

of postage according to the number of inclosures, but by weight, as hereinafter mentioned.

“And we hereby fix and limit the following scale of weight of letters to be transmitted by the post, and we subject such letters on and after the said 10th day of January, 1840, to the following rates of postage; that is to say:

“On every letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken one rate of postage.

“On every letter exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken two rates of postage.

“On every letter exceeding 1 oz. and not exceeding 2 oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken four rates of postage.

“On every letter exceeding 2 oz. and not exceeding 3 oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken six rates of postage; and

“On every letter exceeding 3 oz. and not exceeding 4 oz. in weight there shall be charged and taken eight rates of postage.

“And for every ounce in weight above the weight of 4 oz. there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage; and every fraction of an ounce above the weight of 4 oz. shall be charged as one additional ounce.

“And we order and direct that no letter exceeding 16 oz. in weight shall in any case be forwarded by the post between places within the United Kingdom, except addresses to Her Majesty, Parliamentary petitions, printed votes and proceedings in Parliament, letters addressed to or dispatched by any of the Government offices or departments or any public officer having now the privilege of franking by virtue of his office, deeds if transmitted under all such regulations and restrictions as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time appoint, and letters to and from places beyond the seas.

“And we hereby fix and limit the following rates of postage to be paid to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the use of Her Majesty on letters posted and transmitted by the post on and after the 10th day of January, 1840; and we order and direct the same to be charged and paid accordingly; that is to say:

“INLAND LETTERS.

“On all letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight transmitted by the post between places within the United Kingdom, not being letters sent to or from parts beyond seas, there shall be charged and taken one uniform rate of postage of one penny, without reference to the number of sheets or pieces of paper or

enclosures of which the same may be composed, or the distance or number of miles the same shall be conveyed; and that on all such letters, if exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight, there shall be charged and taken progressive and additional rates of postage (each additional rate being estimated at one penny) according to the scale of weight and number of rates hereinbefore fixed and declared, provided that such postage of one penny, and such progressive and additional postage, be prepaid at the time of posting such letters; but in case such postage on any such letters shall not be prepaid when posted, there shall be charged on such letters a postage of double the amount to which such letters would otherwise have been liable under this present Warrant.*

“That all letters forwarded under the authority of the Postmaster-General by private vessels or packet boats, and transmitted between places in the United Kingdom, shall be considered as forwarded by the Post between such places, and be charged accordingly.”

The Warrant, after prescribing the rates by weight on colonial letters by packets, and on ship and foreign letters, and ordering the suppression of the additional rates on Irish letters in respect of the Menai and Conway Bridges, and on Scotch letters, as also on letters beyond the limits of the General Post delivered by

* The rates on inland letters fixed by the above Treasury Warrant continued in force till altered by a Warrant dated 18th March, 1865 (*London Gazette*, 24th March), when the following rates were fixed, to take effect on and from the 1st April, 1865:

On inland letters sent to or from any part of the United Kingdom—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Not exceeding in weight $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | 1d. |
| „ „ 1 oz. | 2d. |
| „ „ $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | 3d. |

and so on in the proportion of one penny for each half-ounce or fractional part thereof.

These rates, rising uniformly by half-ounces, were far more equitable than those originally fixed in 1840. At the same time also the threepenny stamp, which had been issued specially for foreign postage, and was only allowed by stealth to do duty for inland purposes, was admitted into possession of its full rights.

The last alteration of the rates on inland letters took place on the 5th October, 1871, when by Treasury Warrant, issued in conformity with the provisions of the Act 34 and 35 Vict. c. 30, dated 16th August, 1871 (*London Gazette*, 25th August), the rates now in force were established.

Twopenny or Penny Posts, or any convention post, and afterwards passing by the General Post, in similar terms to those employed in the former Warrant; proceeds as follows:

“That on and after the said 10th day of January next the privilege of sending and receiving letters by the Post, free of postage, whether parliamentary, official, or of any other description whatsoever (except as hereinafter provided), as well under an Act passed in the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled ‘An Act for regulating the sending and receiving of Letters and Packets by the Post free of Duty of Postage,’ being the 1 Vict. c. 35, as under any other Act or Acts now in force, or under any other authority whatsoever, shall be wholly suspended during the time this Warrant shall be in force; and that all letters to which any such privileges now extend, except as aforesaid, shall thenceforth be charged and chargeable with the like rates as any other letters transmitted by the Post would be chargeable, under or by virtue of the present Warrant.”

The Warrant then proceeds to fix certain rates for the transmission by post of the printed votes and proceedings of Parliament, parliamentary papers, &c., which by a Treasury Warrant of 31st January, 1840, were repealed, and the charges fixed at one penny for every 4 oz. These rates have, since the alteration in the Book Post rate, been changed to one halfpenny for every 2 oz., the prepayment of which is optional, provided they are marked “Parliamentary Proceedings.”

The Warrant then prescribes regulations for preserving the right of free transmission of addresses to Her Majesty, the privileges granted to members of both Houses of Parliament of receiving petitions addressed to Parliament, &c. &c., and declares—

“That, except in the cases hereinbefore specified; all privileges whatsoever of sending letters free of postage shall be wholly suspended during the time this present Warrant shall be in operation.

* * * * *

“As witness our hands this 27th day of December, 1839.

“MELBOURNE.

“F. BARING.

“THOS. WYSE.”

When the 10th of January, 1840, arrived, the public seemed nothing loth to take advantage of the new system, and the pressure on the Post officials was very great, not only at the chief offices, but at the metropolitan receiving-houses. The Postmaster of one of these latter declared, that were the system to last he would not retain his office for £200 a year; the letter writers scared away all his customers, and he positively sold nothing. On several days he had taken in 2,000 paid letters, whereas his former average had been 70. But the scene at the chief office in St. Martin's le Grand is thus described in the *Westminster Review* for February, 1840: "A night or two after the change to a penny we ourselves witnessed the scene at St. Martin's le Grand. The great hall* was nearly filled with spectators, marshalled in a line by the police to watch the crowds pressing, scuffling, and fighting to get first to the window. The superintending President of the Inland Office with praiseworthy zeal was in all quarters directing the energy of his officers where the pressure was greatest. Formerly one window sufficed to receive letters. On this evening six windows with two receivers at each were bombarded by applicants. As the last quarter of an hour approached, and the crowd still thickened, a seventh window was opened, and that none might be turned away Mr. Bokenham made some other opening, and took in money and letters himself. To the credit of the Post Office, not a single person lost the time; and we learnt that on this evening upwards of 3,000 letters had been posted at St. Martin's le Grand between five and six. A witness present on the first night of the Penny Post described to us a similar scene. When the window closed, the mob, delighted at the energy displayed by the officers, gave one cheer for the Post Office, and another for Rowland Hill."

* This part of the building, which was one of its chief ornaments, has been gradually absorbed by the increasing demand for additional space, and has now ceased to exist.

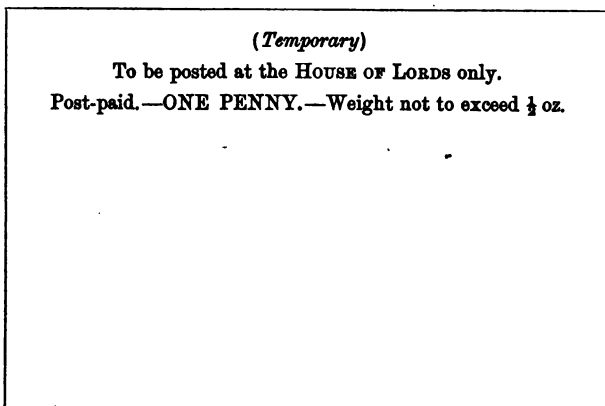
CHAPTER IV.

THE ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE history of the Post Office, from its earliest times down to the introduction of the present system, might have been brought to a close with the last chapter ; but it would scarcely be complete without adding a short account of the introduction of postage stamps to the public, though, as the object of this treatise necessarily involves a description of the mode in which they are prepared and printed, it will to a certain degree be anticipating the chronological order of events.

At the present day, when we possess all the facilities offered by the use of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, and habitually avail ourselves of the simple process of dropping a letter into the nearest pillar-box franked to its destination, little notion can be formed of the inconvenience and trouble resulting from the necessity of sending every letter to a receiving-house or Post Office with the cash to pay its postage. To say nothing of the waste of time, a great temptation was offered to messengers to post the letters unpaid ; but this state of things existed from the 10th of January for many weary weeks. Meantime Parliament had assembled, and the members of the two Houses, who up to that session had enjoyed the privilege of franking their correspondence, now found themselves obliged to pay their pennies like the rest of the public. As a partial remedy for this inconvenience, so far as their correspondence at the two Houses of Parliament was concerned, an expedient was adopted of issuing prepaid envelopes, though on a very

limited scale. Those issued in the House of Lords bore the following superscription, printed in red ink, ordinary type :



A similar envelope, but printed in black, was also prepared for the use of members of the House of Commons. The superscription on this latter varies from that for the House of Lords in the omission of the word *Temporary*, and the word "COMMONS" is of course substituted for "LORDS."*

It should be added that these superscriptions were printed on the envelopes after they had been folded.

The use of these envelopes must have been very restricted, as they are of extreme rarity; but this may be accounted for from the fact that it was necessary that they should be posted at the respective Houses of Parliament. Specimens of those used at the House of Lords are found on blue-laid and thick white wove paper, and of those used at the House of Commons on thin white, or bluish-white, wove paper. The normal size is about $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, but they vary somewhat, as

* The issue of these envelopes is only mentioned by way of recording this temporary expedient. They never formed the subject of any general issue, and rank rather as curiosities in the history of the introduction and establishment of the Penny Post system than as objects for the general collector.

they were manufactured by hand in days when envelopes may be said to have been first invented, for up to that time no such coverings had been used except for franked and official letters not subjected to postage.

It was not till the end of April that the Lords of the Treasury found themselves in a position to fix a day on which the stamps could be issued to the public.

The following Notice was thereupon ordered to be issued from the Post Office :

“TO ALL POSTMASTERS AND SUB-POSTMASTERS.

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,

“25th April, 1840.

“It has been decided that Postage Stamps are to be brought into use forthwith, and as it will be necessary that every such Stamp should be cancelled at the Post Office or Sub Post Office where the Letter bearing the same may be posted, I herewith forward for your use an obliterating Stamp, with which you will efface the Postage Stamp upon every Letter despatched from your Office. RED COMPOSITION must be used for this purpose, and I annex directions for making it, with an impression of the Stamp.

“As the Stamps will come into operation by the 6th MAY, I must desire you will not fail to provide yourself with the necessary supply of Red Composition by that time.



“Directions for preparing the Red Stamping Composition :

“1 lb. Printer's red ink.

“1 pint Linseed Oil.

“Half-pint of the droppings of Sweet Oil.

“To be well mixed.

“By Command,

“W. L. MABERLY, *Secretary.*”

On the 29th April the above notice was followed by another, in which was enclosed a copy of each of the Mulready one penny and twopenny covers and envelopes, and two copies of the black one penny adhesive stamp :

“TO ALL POSTMASTERS.

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,
“April, 1840.

“I beg to enclose you two specimens of the Penny and Two-penny stamped Covers and Envelopes, and two of the Penny adhesive Labels (the Two-penny one is not yet ready), which I must beg you will carefully preserve, in order to compare them in case of doubt with the stamped Letters that may pass through your Office. In the event of your suspecting that the Stamps used on any Letters are forged, you will not detain the Letter, but simply take the Address, and report the circumstance to me without loss of time, in order that the Party to whom the Letter is directed may be at once applied to. You will observe, however, that the adhesive Stamps vary almost in all cases one from the other, having different Letters at the bottom corners, and I point this out that you may not be misled by this circumstance, and be induced to suspect Forgery where the variation of the stamps has been intentional. The Numbers on the Covers and Envelopes also vary. You will carefully Stamp with the Cancelling Stamp that has been forwarded to you the stamped Covers and Envelopes, as well as the adhesive Stamps, the two former must be struck on the figure of Britannia; and in the case of more than one adhesive Stamp being attached to a Letter, each Stamp must be separately obliterated. The use of the Cancelling Stamp, however, will not dispense with the use of the ordinary dated Stamp, which will be struck on the Letter as usual. When the value of the Stamp is under the rate of Postage to which the Letter, if prepaid in Money, would be subject, you will surcharge the Letter with a Pen in the usual manner.

“You will acknowledge the receipt of this Letter and the Specimen Stamps by return of Post.

“By Command,

“W. L. MABERLY, *Secretary.*”

On the same day the following Notice was issued by the Board of Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes :

“The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury having authorized and directed the use of Stamps for denoting the Duties of Postage on and after the 6th of May next, and that the sale of such Stamps shall in the first instance be confined to London, Notice is hereby given that on and after the 1st May next the STAMPS undermentioned may be obtained at this Office,

and also at the Sea Policy Office, Bank Buildings, in the City of London, in the quantities and at the prices following, viz. :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Two reams of 1d. Stamps for covers, containing 80 sheets, or 960 Stamps | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Same quantity of 1d. Stamps for envelopes | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| One ream of 1d. Stamps for covers, containing 40 sheets, or 480 Stamps | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Same quantity of 1d. Stamps for envelopes | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Half a ream of 1d. Stamps for covers, containing 20 sheets, or 240 Stamps | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Same quantity of 1d. Stamps for envelopes | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| One ream of 2d. Stamps for covers, containing 40 sheets, or 480 Stamps | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Same quantity of 2d. Stamps for envelopes | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Half a ream of 2d. Stamps for covers, containing 20 sheets, or 240 Stamps | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Same quantity of 2d. Stamps for envelopes | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Quarter of a ream of 2d. Stamps for covers, containing 10 sheets or 120 covers | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Same quantity of 2d. Stamps for envelopes | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sheet of 1d. Labels containing 240 Stamps (per sheet) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Same of 2d. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

"To enable any person to sell these Stamps it will be necessary that they should obtain licenses as Vendors of Stamps generally.

"By Order of the Board,

"CHARLES PRESSLY, *Secretary.*"

The public were informed of the intended issue of the stamps by the following notice, which, as shown by a note attached to the copy preserved in the Archives of the General Post Office, was sent out on the 30th April, 1840 :

"NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AND

"INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL POSTMASTERS.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,

"April, 1840.

"The Lords of the Treasury having fixed the 6th of May next for the issue of Postage Stamps, on and after that day all Letters written on Stamped Paper, or enclosed in Stamped Covers,

or having Stamps affixed to them, the Stamps in every such case being equal in Value or Amount to the Rates of Postage now chargeable on such Letters if prepaid, will pass *Free* of Postage in whatever part of the UNITED KINGDOM they may be posted.

“In those cases where the Value of Stamps on the Letter is less than the amount of the Postage to which it would now be liable if prepaid, the Letter will be charged double the amount of such difference on delivery. An Inland Letter, for example, weighing more than Half-an-Ounce, and not exceeding an Ounce, if bearing only a Penny Stamp will be charged Twopence on delivery.

“The same regulation applies to letters prepaid by money where the full and proper rate of postage has not been paid in advance.

“Stamps may be used for *Printed Votes* and *Proceedings in Parliament*. If the Stamps, however, should be less in value than the proper rate of Postage to which these documents are subject, only the difference, and not double the difference, is to be charged.

“Stamps may also be used on Foreign, Colonial, and Ship Letters, &c., outwards. If any Letter, however, addressed to Places beyond Sea, shall bear an insufficient number of Stamps, it will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be returned in all practicable cases to the writer. Stamps are *not* permitted to be used on Letters arriving in the United Kingdom *from the Colonies or Foreign Countries*. In such cases therefore Letters will be chargeable with the same rates as they would be if not bearing Stamps.

“All these Regulations will be applicable to Newspapers in those cases where they are liable to Postage.

“It must be distinctly understood that it is optional with the Public either to use Stamps, or to forward their Letters, &c., prepaid or unpaid as at present.

“The instructions issued in December, and on the 4th February last, remain in full force, the only alteration being that the Stamps are permitted to be used in certain cases instead of the Postage being paid in Money.

“By Command,

“W. L. MABERLY, *Secretary.*”

THE
POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

Part I.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE history of the Post Office as a national institution having in the foregoing chapters been brought down to the introduction of Postage Stamps, we will now proceed to the immediate object of this Treatise ; viz., the examination of the various Stamps by which the prepayment of postal rates has been and is at present effected in the United Kingdom. Although the aim of all these stamps is identical, yet it will appear that the means by which the result is attained are diverse ; and further, that in certain cases stamps have been expressly created to serve special purposes. To avoid confusion and afford greater facilities for reference it seems desirable to consider them in the following order :

FIRST. Adhesive Stamps or Labels.

SECOND. Covers and Envelopes for enclosing correspondence.

THIRD. Newspaper and Book-post Stamps and Wrappers.

FOURTH. Post Cards.

It is then proposed to add a short description of some of the principal essays, trials, and proofs of postage stamps and envelopes, more especially of those which are chiefly interesting

in a historical point of view as tending to throw light, not only on certain stages in the production of the stamps subsequently issued to the public, but also on the gradual growth of the system which called them into existence.

Adopting this order, we proceed to the consideration of the Adhesive Stamps or Labels; and these will be found to constitute by far the most important class of stamps employed for postal purposes. The most obvious mode of procedure would certainly be that based upon the chronological order of the various issues; and there can be little doubt but that such a mode is not only the most logical and scientific in itself, but is one which ought to prevail where the stamps have been issued in regular series. In the adhesive stamps of Great Britain, however, not only is there a want of uniformity in the elements which make one stamp to differ from another, but the issues themselves have been variable in the extreme, one stamp after another having been called into existence as it was required for the special exigency of the service at the time. A cursory view of the entire body of adhesive stamps will nevertheless show that there are special features common to many of them, and that they are capable of being rationally divided into three categories, dependent on the method by which they are manufactured. They will consequently be considered under the following sectional heads :

SECTION I. Line-engraved Stamps.

SECTION II. Stamps embossed in relief.

SECTION III. Type-printed Stamps.

It will be found that by adopting this mode of classification much unnecessary repetition will be avoided. The chronological order of issue of the several stamps in each section will be observed as far as possible, and each value will be examined *seriatim* through all the phrases it has exhibited from the date of its original issue to the present time.

SECTION I.

LINE-ENGRAVED STAMPS.

THESE Stamps consist of—

- (1) THE ONE PENNY . . . issued 6th May, 1840.
- (2) THE TWO PENCE . . . „ May, 1840.
- (3) THE ONE HALFPENNY . . . „ 1st October, 1870.
- (4) THE THREE HALFPENCE . . . „ 1st October, 1870.

The distinguishing feature of the stamps in this Section is that they are produced from plates engraved in ordinary line engraving, in which the lines appearing in colour in the printed impression are *en creux*, or are cut into the plate in *intaglio*. This method, as will be seen hereafter, is the reverse of that adopted in typographic or surface printing, where the lines appearing in colour in the printed impression are in relief or *cameo* on the plate.

The great problem to be solved in creating an Adhesive Postage Stamp was the absolute necessity of providing an adequate and unfailing supply of impressions, all of which should be as exact in every respect as if each copy had been printed from one original die, otherwise it would be difficult, if not impossible, to guard against or to detect forgery. It was an every-day business to obtain a few thousand impressions from an engraved plate or die ; but it was a complete novelty to determine the best means of securing the daily supply of a million.

As none of the proposals sent in to the Treasury appeared on investigation to answer the required conditions, Mr. Henry

Cole, who was acting in that Department as assistant to Sir Rowland Hill,* applied to Messrs. Bacon and Petch (now Perkins, Bacon, and Co.), of Fleet Street and Whitefriars, London, engravers on and printers from steel plates,† a firm principally known as engravers and printers of bank-notes for many private and joint-stock banks, by a process introduced into England by the late Mr. Jacob Perkins, the original founder of the firm. By this process, a design engraved on a steel plate was reproduced on any number of similar plates absolutely identical with the original, even to the most minute details, so that in fact the number of perfect impressions which could be obtained was practically without limit.‡ Through a misapprehension of the requirements of the Lords of the Treasury this firm had not sent in any proposal in answer to the invitation of "My Lords," though specimens of reproductions made by the process had been circulated as illustrations to an article on the New System of Postage in the *London and Westminster Review*.§ On its being explained to Mr. Bacon that for Adhesive Postage Stamps such as were required, a design of about the size of an inch square would suffice, he considered that the multiplying process as employed by his

* Sir Rowland Hill was, in September, 1839, attached to the Treasury to assist in carrying into effect the new system of the uniform penny postage. (See *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 371.)

† Report of Committee of 1852. Answer of Mr. Bacon to question 1692.

‡ Mr. Jacob Perkins was a native of Massachusetts, and came to England in 1819. He was possessed of great inventive talent, not only in his own particular profession as an intaglio engraver, but in various branches of mechanics. Three of the principal discoveries he brought over to this country were:—a method of softening steel, which enabled him to engrave upon it with the greatest facility, and then of hardening it again;—a process by which engraving might be transferred from steel to steel, thus multiplying to any extent the plates to be printed from;—and a new and elaborate style of ornamentation by means of geometrical lathe-work. This latter, produced by a machine which was an improved adaptation of the Rose Engine, was employed in engraving the fine reticulated pattern introduced into the background of the stamps in this Section.

§ *London and Westminster Review*, vol. xxxiii. p. 491.

firm might be applied to the production of them, and he accordingly submitted designs and proposals which were ultimately accepted by the Lords of the Treasury, and the firm was commissioned to furnish a supply of adhesive stamps so soon as the necessary dies had been completed. A contract was subsequently entered into for one year from 13th April, 1840, whereby that firm agreed to deliver the necessary quantity of stamps, printed and gummed, to the Inland Revenue Department at Somerset House at the rate of 7½d. per 1,000, the paper being supplied by the Government.* This contract was renewed from time to time for various periods and under altered conditions until, on its expiration at the close of the year 1879, the Government decided on adopting the typographic or surface mode of printing for the stamps in this section which was in use for the other values then current, and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. became the successful competitors for the new contract.

Before proceeding to the examination of the stamps in this Section individually, we will notice some particulars common to the whole of them, and commence by giving a brief description of the process by which the steel plates employed for the production of the impressions were constructed.

PLATE.—The original die was the handiwork of the engraver, who engraved the proposed design in intaglio on a flat plate or block of softened steel, which, when completed, was carefully hardened, and constituted what was technically termed the “matrix,” or mother die. By means of powerful pressure, applied by a compound lever, impressions from this matrix were taken on a “roller” of softened steel, which evidently were cameo impressions of the original die. This roller after having been

* By the contract made between Messrs. Bacon and Petch and the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes (now the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue) of the 5th May, 1843, the price was fixed at 6½d. per 1,000, and if the annual quantity exceeded thirty-two millions then the price was to be 6d. per 1,000. A subsequent contract for five years from the 5th July, 1851, fixed the price at 5d. per 1,000, with a special stipulation that if a more expensive kind of adhesive matter was required than that then employed, the Government was to bear the extra cost.

hardened was employed to transfer an impression from its face on to a plate of softened steel, and by repeated operations produced as many rows of impressions as were required to compose the sheet of stamps, each of which impressions was an exact *fac-simile* of the original die. The bur caused by the action of the roller was then removed; the letters in the angles were inserted with steel punches, the legends on the margins of the plate were added, and the plate number, as also the official number of the plate, were filled in. After being hardened the plate was fit for use; but in order to insure accuracy in all the details, plate-proof impressions were taken off in black ink on ordinary paper before any stamps were actually printed from it. These having been duly verified were destroyed by the inspecting officer always present on behalf of the Inland Revenue Department. This system of checking for errors was in all cases invariably followed, and proved to be a useful and efficient protection against what may be termed errors of engraving.

LETTERING.—Letters were at first inserted in the blocks in the two lower angles only of the stamp; those in the upper angles of the one penny and twopence being filled in with Maltese crosses. These letters served to determine the position which the stamp occupied in the sheet; but the real object of introducing them was to provide an additional protection against forgery, it being “thought at the time that any considerable use or sale of stamps so printed, all having the same letters, and being sold separately, not in sheets, would necessarily attract attention, and lead to inquiry.”* The sheet (with the exception of the one halfpenny) consisted of two hundred and forty stamps, disposed in twenty rows, of twelve in each row. The upper row bore the letters A.A., A.B., A.C., A.D., &c., up to A.L.; the second row the letters B.A., B.B., B.C., B.D., &c., up to B.L.; the third the letters C.A., &c., up to C.L., and so on to the twentieth or last row, which bore the letters T.A., &c., up to T.L.; the first letter denoting the place of the stamp in the vertical row, and the second its place in the horizontal row.

* Evidence of Sir Rowland Hill before the Committee of 1852.

In 1858 the Maltese crosses in the upper blocks of the two-pence were suppressed, and letters were substituted, an alteration which was carried out a few years later in the one penny. This latter system of notation, which was subsequently extended, not only to all the stamps in this Section, but also to most of those in the Third Section, appears at first sight rather more complicated than the former; but on examination it will be seen that no alteration was made in the lettering of the lower angles; while the upper ones were filled in by repeating the same letters, but placing them in opposite angles, diagonal-wise. Thus a stamp, for example, occupying the third place in the fourth row, which under the first system bore the letters D.C. only in the lower angles, continued under the new system to bear the same letters in these angles, while the upper angles would be occupied by the same letters transposed; viz., C.D. There can be no doubt but that this latter system presented an additional safeguard against the fraudulent use of any stamps that might be only partially or imperfectly obliterated, a protection not enjoyed in an equal degree under the former; for if by chance a stamp of a certain value were obliterated in the upper part only, and another of the same value were found obliterated in the lower part, the unobliterated portions might be brought together so as to form a stamp which would probably pass muster, and the defrauder might allege that the cutting of the stamp was the result of an accident; but with the new system such a plea became almost hopeless, the chances against the two halves bearing the same letters being exceedingly remote, as the only stamps in a sheet of two hundred and forty, where the letters do not admit of inversion, are the twelve which bear the same letter in all the four angles, thus leaving two hundred and twenty-eight stamps in the sheet where different combinations of the letters must appear. Instances of the species of improper and fraudulent manipulations above referred to are so rare that it is presumable that the system proved an almost effectual protection against such artifices.

PLATE NUMBER.—The plates used for printing the stamps in

this Section have always been numbered, by which means a register has been kept of the performance of each plate. These numbers have followed in consecutive order, except when interrupted by some special circumstances. The number is inserted in each corner of the margin of the plate within a small fine-lined circle; but as regards the one penny and twopence, this has not been so from the commencement. In the case of the one penny the number was originally introduced into the margin at all four corners of the plate without any addition, and this continued until plate No. 98 of Series II. was reached (10th March, 1865), when a fine-lined circle enclosing the plate number was added, and continued to the close of the Series at the expiration of the contract at the end of 1879.* In the case of the twopence the numbers were inserted in the margin at all the four angles until plate No. 12 was reached (1st January, 1868), when the numbers were enclosed in fine-lined circles at the two corners, similarly to the one penny as above described, and so continued down to the expiration of the contract.

PAPER.—The paper on which the stamps in this Section were printed was hand-made, with ragged or “deckel” edges all round the sheet, and was manufactured by Messrs. Faircroft and Co. at the Rush Mills, near Northampton, under the inspection of an officer of the Inland Revenue Department. The sheets, after having been made up into reams of five hundred, were forwarded direct to the offices of the Department in Somerset House, and there counted in and out, every sheet being rigorously accounted for.

The colour of the paper was greyish-white, and, like all hand-made papers, it has varied considerably in thickness at different periods.†

* Coincident with the enclosing of the plate number within a circle, another number was introduced into the upper and lower margins, which was the “official” number of the plate.

† This is especially noticeable in some of the one penny stamps, particularly those printed about the summer of 1870 (plates 139-144, Series ii.), which are on comparatively thick paper, differing materially from those appearing in the autumn of 1876, which are found on paper so thin as almost to resemble *pelure* paper.

WATERMARKS.—From the first creation of postage stamps in England watermarks have been introduced into the paper on which they have been printed. These watermarks are produced by affixing patterns of the required design on the wire gauze of the frame which receives the pulp in the process of the manufacture of the paper, and as this is consequently thinner where the pattern is affixed an impression is left behind, visible on holding the sheet to the light. The patterns themselves (technically termed "*bits*") are made of thin brass or fine wire, and are supplied to the manufacturers of the paper under the direction of the officer in charge. They are so arranged on the frame that one of the impressions produced shall appear in each space destined to be occupied by a stamp, except in the paper manufactured expressly for the one halfpenny (1870). The presence of watermarks in the stamps has always been considered as offering one of the most effectual impediments to forgery, and that this opinion is well founded is, we think, amply borne out by experience.

It is evident that the principal danger apprehended by the Lords of the Treasury in carrying out the projected issue of adhesive postage stamps was the possibility of forgery, and their apprehensions on this head were constantly kept alive by the prophecies of croaking alarmists which day by day appeared in the public journals. Even Sir Rowland Hill himself was not free from them.* Every precaution was consequently taken to place obstacles in the way of the dreaded evil. The danger of fraud did not, however, lie so much in this direction as in the fraudulent use of stamps a second time, rendered possible either by the omission of the officials to obliterate them, or by the removal of the effacing marks when made, a species of fraud that fortunately could not be carried on to any great extent. Even on the first of these points Sir Rowland

* Sir Rowland Hill, writing in 1871, says: "My apprehensions, however, happily proved groundless; only two attempts, so far as I know, ever having been made, and both of a very bungling character, though in one the author was cunning enough to escape detection. In the other, which occurred in Ireland, the offender was convicted and punished; the detection occurred through the fact that a young man had written to his sweetheart under one of the forged stamps, and enclosed another for her use in reply."—*Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 397.

Hill himself says, that "there was a good deal to complain of at the outset, so much so that a certain amount of discredit began to attach to the stamps as a whole." As regards the removal of the effacing marks by cleaning, this was done rather from mischiefous than from fraudulent intentions, though it was not put a stop to until changes had been made both in the obliterated ink and in that used for the impression of the stamps.*

* The effacing marks, as has been mentioned in the introductory chapters, were originally ordered to be made in red ink, which was most probably chosen by the Post Office officials from the long habit they had acquired of stamping in red everything which was paid. This, as we learn by an extract from Sir Rowland Hill's diary, dated 21st May, did not prove efficient. "Several more cases," he writes, "of stamps wholly unobliterated, or very nearly so, have come within my knowledge, and all sorts of tricks are being played by the public, who are exercising their ingenuity in devising contrivances for removing the obliteration stamp by chemical agents and other means." The principal chemists of the day were consulted, and many experiments made with inks variously compounded, while endless suggestions came in from all quarters. Sir Rowland Hill at last drew up a Report "containing all the information then possessed, and recommending for the present, obliteration in good black printing ink prepared in a peculiar manner, and the printing of the adhesive stamps in coloured inks—blue as before for the twopenny ones, but red for the penny ones, both colours to be oleaginous, but at the same time destructible, the aim being to render the obliteration so much more tenacious than the postage stamp that any attempt at removing the former must involve the destruction of the latter."

The obliteration in black ink began to be brought into use about the month of June, and was applied to the stock of stamps on hand. "Within three weeks from the date of the Report a chemist, named Watson, had succeeded completely in the removal of this obliteration by a process which, though very simple, inexpensive, and effectual, in relation at least to the black stamp," proved so slow as to demand nine minutes per label in its application, so that the danger to be apprehended was not very formidable. But when Sir Rowland Hill's own clerk succeeded in effecting the operation at the rate of one per minute it was necessary to reconsider the question, as this rate was quick enough to render knavery profitable. At length, it having occurred to Sir Rowland Hill that "as the means which were successful in removing the printing ink obliterated were different from those which discharged Perkins's" ink, a secure ink might be made by the addition of certain ingredients used in this latter to the printers' ink. "The device succeeded, and the ink so formed proved to all intents and purposes indestructible."—*Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. pp. 399-404.

IMPRESSION.—The sheets were struck off by hand-worked copperplate printing presses furnished with a back movement, by which the sheet was returned to the workman after it had received the impression, an invention due to the mechanical talent of the late Mr. Jacob Perkins. At the time of the expiration of the contract with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co. there were thirty-eight of these presses engaged in printing the stamps in this Section, each of which was capable of turning out from four hundred to five hundred impressions per day.* The number of impressions which could be taken from each plate before it became unfit for service varied considerably. One was known to yield under twenty-four thousand impressions, while there are instances of others giving more than a million before they were destroyed as unfit for service. The average number, however, taken from the plates constructed after the deepening of the lines on the die of the one penny and twopence was about half a million.

A sheet of stamps printed in black from Die II., prior to the adoption of the lettering in the four angles, was exhibited by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. at South Kensington, from which one million of impressions had been taken without any appreciable wear of the plate.

IMPRIMATUR.—Whenever a plate is actually brought into use for the first time, copies of the first impressions struck off are brought by the officer of the Inland Revenue Department charged with the surveillance of the operations on the premises of the contractors to the offices of the Department at Somerset House, with his certificate of the date when they were struck off, for the purpose of receiving the *imprimatur* of the Commissioners. This *imprimatur* is endorsed on one of the sheets, being applied by

* Questions have been asked how it was that stamps, especially those of one penny, purchased at the Post Offices, frequently bore plate numbers lower than those purchased previously; but it must be borne in mind that if thirty-eight presses were employed at any moment printing the same value, each press must have been supplied with a plate bearing different numbers. This reason is quite independent of the fact that Post Offices frequently issue fresh stock before the old is exhausted.

virtue of the Statute 3 and 4 Vict., c. 96, and until it is given the impressions from the particular plate do not legally denote the rate of duty which the stamp purports to represent. In short, the Commissioners by this *imprimatur* allow the impressions from the particular plate to represent stamp duties, and put them under the protection of the law. The date of this *imprimatur* is necessarily subsequent to the commencement of the printing from the plate, but precedes the date of issue to the public frequently by some months, and occasionally by years, in the case of a continuous issue. Copies of the sheets so struck from each plate, with the original *imprimatur* endorsed, are preserved in the archives of the Inland Revenue Department at Somerset House.

GUM.—After the sheets were printed and dried, the adhesive matter, or, as it is termed in the legend on the margin, the “cement on the back,” was applied by the contractors for the printing. The composition originally employed was of a brownish-yellow colour, but very deficient in adhesive properties, and was moreover exceedingly disagreeable to the taste. Mr. Joshua B. Bacon, then senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., when examined before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1852, in reply to question 1724, said, “Our gum is composed of potato starch, wheat starch, and gum.”* Before the same Committee, Mr. Edwin Hill, Controller of the Stamping Department at Somerset House, said that the gum was “potato starch slightly burnt or toasted,” a condition implying that it was dextrine, which is starch that has been exposed for a certain time to a heat of about 400° Fah. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. inform us that up to the middle of the year 1855 the adhesive matter was simply potato

* Mr. Bacon, the son of Mr. Joshua B. Bacon, and the present senior partner in the firm, to whose courtesy we are indebted for many of the details we are able to give with respect to the manufacture of this interesting series of stamps, considers that this statement as to gum entering into the composition of the adhesive matter was due to some misapprehension, as he believes that no gum was ever employed in combination with the starch.

starch,* but that at that period, in order to add to the adhesiveness of the stamps, a certain quantity of gelatine was added. This had the effect of rendering the composition much whiter in colour and less disagreeable in use than before, though it was still deficient in adhesive qualities. Great dissatisfaction was expressed by the public on this account, as vast numbers of stamps failed to adhere, and were found loose in the letter-bags. With a view to improve the adhesiveness two coats of the composition were applied to the sheets in 1866, and this in some degree remedied the evil; but the long use of the potato starch composition was in reality due to the ill-conceived notions of economy on the part of the authorities.†

Owing to causes into which it does not appear material to our present purpose to prosecute any inquiries, necessitating chemical research, an action was under certain conditions set up between the ink of the impression and the adhesive matter, which resulted in a discoloration of the intervening paper, a blue or greenish blue tinge being communicated to the stamp. In many cases the tinge might more properly be described as green; but this appearance is due mostly, if not entirely, to the yellow hue of the adhesive matter combining with the blue of the paper. This discoloration not only varied considerably in intensity, but, like all stains made on paper by chemical agency of a similar kind, was unevenly and capriciously diffused, a condition especially noticeable on the sheets preserved in the archives of the Inland Revenue Department at Somerset House,

* An account of this substitute for gum may be found in *Household Words* for 15th May, 1852, where it is mentioned that in the second year of Messrs. Perkins and Co.'s contract a rumour was spread that the adhesive matter on the postage stamps was a deleterious composition made from the refuse of fish and other disgusting materials. "The Great British Gum Secret" was then spread far and wide, and the public was extensively informed that the postage label poison was made simply of potatoes!

In commerce it passes under the name of "British Gum," being extensively used by calico printers, and is in reality roasted potato starch.

† See *supra*, p. 53, note.

from which in order to receive the *imprimatur* the adhesive matter was removed from the back. Some of these are blotchy, the blue tinge being in patches; in others it is much more uniformly distributed; some are deeply stained with the colour, while in others there is scarcely any, if any, tinge of blue.

The one penny stamps printed in ordinary black printers' ink show no traces of discoloration, nor are any to be found in some of the essays printed in red-brown. The earliest impressions of the twopence also are free from discoloration, though it is apparent in those of a subsequent period, but not in an equal degree with the contemporaneous impressions of the one penny printed in red-brown and carmine-red. These latter scarcely ever fail to show the discoloration, which appears to have reached its maximum point between 1848 and 1852. It then seemed to diminish gradually, but few specimens being found deeply blued, and it finally ceased in 1856.

From these appearances a notion sprang up that the one penny and twopence had been printed on *blue* paper. But there is not the slightest foundation in fact for this idea, as the paper was invariably greyish-white, and the tinge of colour is entirely due to the chemical discoloration of the paper in a greater or lesser degree.

That this discoloration was caused by the combined action of the ink and the adhesive matter is evident, because the margins of those sheets over which the adhesive matter has extended are found to be free from discoloration, though a strong tinge of blue prevails to the extreme boundary to which the printing reaches. So also in many of the essays of colour for the one penny printed with a blank corner, the paper is found in its pristine condition in every part *not* covered by the impression, even to the blank letter blocks in the angles, while the rest over which the ink has passed is deeply discoloured.

Again, the condition of the *imprimatur* sheets before referred to shows that the ink and the adhesive matter did not of them-

selves and alone combine to produce the discoloration, but that the action when set in motion operated with uncertain and irregular force. Further, it is clear that when the cause operated, the chemical action was set in motion immediately, though the discolouring effects developed themselves subsequently in a greater degree, and in this subsequent development it is by no means improbable that atmospheric influences were indirectly concerned.

The real difficulty therefore lies in determining what this exciting cause really was, and the solution of this question must be sought for either in the ink, the paper, or the adhesive matter, or in some of the elements composing them.

Mr. Edwin Hill, in his evidence before the Committee above referred to, attributed the discoloration to the "alum used in sizing the paper," setting up "a chemical action between the gum and the printing;" but this theory seems to be difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile with the facts as disclosed by the appearances on the *imprimatur* sheets, besides which the quantity of alum employed in the size is very minute, and would be evenly distributed over the paper. He further mentioned "that some sheets when gummed presented none of the objectionable appearances, whereas others gummed with gum out of the same cask showed them in a most decided manner," from which he inferred that the exciting cause was not in the gum.

Various other theories have been advanced from time to time to account for this discoloration, one alleging that it was due to iodine, another to the potato starch ceasing to operate after its admixture with gelatine; the advocates of the one theory seeming to be ignorant of the effects that iodine would produce on potato starch, and the others arguing regardless of dates, for there is not a trace of blue discoloration to be found on any sheet of the one penny stamps subsequent to the commencement of 1857, and yet the first batch of the stamps of three-halfpence printed as essays on 22nd March, 1860, are most deeply tinged with the blue discoloration.

We believe that the exciting cause which set in motion the chemical action between the ink and the gum is that which has been communicated to us by Mr. Bacon ; namely, that it is due solely and entirely to the use of alum as an ingredient in the composition of the ink. This ingredient was introduced in a greater or lesser quantity for the purpose of brightening the colour of the ink, but the use of it was discontinued after it had been discovered that it was injurious to the steel of the plates. As far as it is possible to be ascertained, the abandonment of the use of this ingredient and the cessation of the discoloration were simultaneous. The appearances also of the *imprimatur* sheets tend to confirm this view. The normal colour of the impression of the one penny, as will be seen subsequently, was red-brown, which in some cases approached to a carmine tint. The first sheet where the blue appearance absolutely ceases, never to reappear, is printed in quite a different shade, being a brick-red, and no subsequent impressions in red-brown are to be found, as the colour gradually fell into a lake-red, and so continued to the close of the contract.

We have possibly been somewhat minute on the question of the discoloration of the one penny and twopenny stamps of this section, a discoloration which commenced with the introduction of destructible colours in the printing ; but it is one which has always created discussion, and been the subject of controversy among philatelists, and we have therefore thought it right to state all the facts which have come to our knowledge, and which we have been at some pains to ascertain, as well as to indicate the inferences which in our opinion may properly be deduced from them.

PERFORATION.—The sheets after having been printed and gummed were returned by the contractors to the Inland Revenue Department at Somerset House, there to undergo the final process of perforation. Up to the year 1854 the one penny and twopenny stamps were issued to the public imperforate ; but in that year machines were brought into use for perforating the sheets, and the system has now so gradually worked its

way into the economy of the manufacture of postage stamps, that it may be safely said, nine-tenths of those at present in use throughout the world are machine-perforated under one form or another.

In the year 1847 Mr. Henry Archer, an Irishman, proposed to the Marquess of Clanricarde, then Postmaster-General, the adoption of a machine invented by him, "whereby the stamps might be separated without the necessity of using knives or scissors." The matter was referred to Mr. Bokenham, then Controller of the Circulation Department at the Post Office, and to other officials, who, in their report to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes made on the 14th October, 1847, stated that the machine appeared to be a clever and useful invention; that they were thoroughly convinced that postage stamps separated by it, having jagged edges, would adhere to letters far better than those cut from the sheet by knives or scissors; and they concluded by submitting that it was most desirable the invention should be adopted. In the report of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes subsequently made to the Lords of the Treasury, the invention is described as being one "for piercing the portions of the paper intervening between the labels by a series of cuts, in such a manner as to admit of their being detached singly without use of knife or scissors," a system known to stamp collectors as *perçage à la roulette*, involving merely cuts in the paper without removing any portion of its substance. On the 7th January, 1848, the report was approved by the Lords of the Treasury, stamps subjected to its operation were authorised to be circulated, and orders were given that the machine should be set up and tried on the premises of Messrs. Bacon and Petch, under the superintendence of Mr. Edwin Hill, the Controller of the Stamping Department at Somerset House.

When a practical trial of the machine was made, it was found that the piercing rollers by which the cuts were made, speedily wore out the table on which their edges descended, and but few sheets were perforated, as this defect soon put a stop to

further experiments.* Archer then, with the help of a practical machinist, modified the machine by introducing a series of lancet-shaped blades, but on trial this also failed, partly from the same cause as before and partly from the blades becoming blunted against the table.

Examples of the stamps, which are the result of both of these experiments, are preserved at the Post Office, and some few sheets found their way into the hands of the public, though the number must have been very limited, as specimens are exceedingly rare, but when found they may readily be distinguished from each other. In the first, the cuts vary in length, and the distances separating them from each other are unequal, while the cut itself is irregular and jagged, and the stamp is seldom left square at the angles. In the second, the cuts are straight and clean, widening at the extremities, and they are much closer together, and at more regular intervals.

In the year 1849 Archer, who from time to time had been assisted by the advice and suggestions of Mr. E. Hill, produced another machine, constructed on the principle of perforating the intervals between the stamps with a series of holes punched out of the substance of the paper. The first experiments were not successful, but after repeated alterations the machine was got to work. Other difficulties now presented themselves, which Archer alleged were owing to obstructions placed in his way by the contractors for the supply of the stamps. In this he was entirely mistaken, the real cause of the principal difficulty being due to inequalities in the sizes of the sheets, arising partly from the damping previous to the printing, but chiefly from the plates varying in size, according to the amount of pressure employed in their preparation. Still the machine itself was far from being perfect, as is evident from the trials, which show a series of

* The first apparatus offered by Archer consisted of two machines to be used in succession, one containing a roller carrying thirteen little spur-wheels placed the width of a stamp apart; the other with twenty-one similar spur-wheels the length of the stamp apart. The sheets were passed first under the roller of the one to have the longitudinal lines of perforation pierced, then under the other for the cross lines.

irregular oval-shaped holes, misplaced moreover with regard to the edges of the stamps, owing to the machine failing to retain the sheets firmly in place during the process of perforation. Many sheets were spoiled, but some were allowed to pass, and were used in the post. Specimens are of the extremest rarity, but when met with may be recognised by the irregularity and oval shape of the holes running sideways to the margin of the stamp.*

It, however, became apparent in the course of these experiments that the new system was free from the great objections to which the former one was open, and that the best chance of success lay in attempting to improve the last machine. Archer having refused to continue his experiments on the premises of Messrs. Bacon and Petch, a room was placed at his disposal at Somerset House, where Mr. E. Hill could devote more time to the supervision of them.

It would be foreign to our purpose to recount here the history of the progressive development of the machine, which led to its ultimate success. Those curious on the subject may read it at length in the Parliamentary Blue Book of the proceedings of the Committee of 1852; suffice it to say that the principal difficulty was solved by arranging the needles or punches so as to be capable of adjustment. These needles were disposed in such manner that sixteen holes were perforated by them in a length of two centimetres or 0·7874 inch.

Archer had patented his machine, which was worked by hand with tolerable facility, and was at length considered as sufficiently satisfactory for practical use. The question then remained as to what compensation he should receive, a question which in his first proposals he had offered to "leave open until the plan succeeded." A long correspondence with the Treasury ensued, and in 1852 the matter was referred to a Select Com-

* Archer stated, in his examination before the Committee of 1852, that during the course of the various trials about five thousand sheets were experimented upon. Those which were not spoiled were, he said, partly distributed by him, while the rest were sent to country Post Offices for sale.

mittee of the House of Commons, who reported in favour of the perforating system. The government, shortly after the report was made, settled the question by paying Archer a sum of £4000 for his expenses, and for the purchase of the right to use his invention during the term of his patent, which has of course long since expired.*

As soon as the purchase of the machine and the right to use it had been completed, Mr. James M. Napier, the able mechanical engineer, was ordered to construct several machines adapted for working by steam power, and he modified the arrangement of Archer's machine very considerably. Mr. E. Hill also suggested several improvements in the machines before they left Mr. Napier's workshops, and after the two first were set to work at Somerset House considerable alterations and other improvements were made by him and Mr. Ormond Hill. The machines constructed by Mr. Napier perforated sixteen to the two centimetres; but a change was tried in the spacing in March 1855, fourteen needles being introduced into the space before occupied by sixteen, as with the closer holes both the steel bed-plates of the machines and the perforated sheets were found to be too tender, the former frequently splitting, and the latter often tearing too readily along the lines of holes, so much so as to render the counting of the sheets very difficult. The experiment proving satisfactory, a similar change was made in all the machines successively, and this gauge has ever since continued to be employed for the whole of the ordinary sized postage stamps, and is found by the public to be convenient in use as permitting an easy severance of the stamps; while at the same time sufficient paper is left to prevent this occurring too readily.

* Mr. Ormond Hill, formerly Controller of Stamping at Somerset House, to whose kindness many of the details here given are owing, informs us that Archer was not possessed of any inventive power or mechanical knowledge, but having imagined or picked up a good idea was entirely dependent on others for the mode in which it should be carried out, and being almost without means he went from one mechanic to another, and got each to work for him upon the hope of being paid when success was attained. When the Government purchased the machine and the right to use it, he told Mr. Hill that he had to pay about £2000 amongst the several mechanics that had so aided him.

The machines subsequently used contained further and important improvements, devised about six years ago by Mr. Thos. Peacock, one of the superintendents in the Stamping Department. As so constructed they were extremely ingenious, perforating as many as 5500 sheets per hour, instead of the old rate of 3200.* The perforating needles at each descent perforate an entire row of stamps horizontally, and each side of the stamp longitudinally, so that three sides of the rectangle are perforated at each step of the process. There is consequently one row of needles as long as the horizontal row of twelve stamps on the sheet, and at right angles to this are thirteen short rows capable of adjustment in such manner as to adapt the machine either to the perforation of a sheet where the stamps are close together, or where they were printed in separate "panes," as was formerly the case with most of the stamps in the Third Section.

Although the actual gauge of the perforations is fourteen, yet it not unfrequently occurs that on bringing the edges of two stamps together, both of which are perforated to the same gauge, it is found that the indentations do not exactly correspond. At other times it will be found that though the top line of indentations may gauge fourteen, the side ones are somewhat finer, and *vice versa*.† This arises from a variation in the size of the needles where worn ones are replaced by new ones. Instances occur occasionally where, by a fault of the perforator, some of the rows of stamps have been twice perforated nearly in the same spot, the effect of which has been to cut away a portion of the first perforation, thus producing a very fine jagged edge along two sides, and oval holes at the other two. These must be carefully distinguished from the work of Archer's machine, which punched irregular oval holes on *all* four sides.

* At present, as will be noticed hereafter, almost the whole of the perforation is done by the contractors for the printing.

† According to the system adopted by philatelists no account is taken of the size of the perforated holes, the test being only that a certain number of holes, large or small, should be found within a certain space. This is no doubt a defect in the system, and one which it is easier to point out than remedy.

1. THE ONE PENNY (1840).

Date of Issue, 6th May, 1840.

DESIGN. DIE I.—That the design for the adhesive postage labels must present a portrait of the Queen seemed to be almost a foregone conclusion, against which no argument was admissible; but it was also considered that by adopting a portrait, with the features of which the officials must necessarily become familiar, any forgery of the stamps would be more readily detected. Accordingly the Lords of the Treasury, in accepting the proposals made to them by Messrs. Bacon and Petch, selected a design embracing the portrait of Her Majesty with a background of ornamental lathe-work. A drawing by Mr. Henry Corbould of the obverse of Mr. William Wyon's Medal,* struck in commemoration of Her Majesty's visit to the City on 9th November, 1837, which, following the numismatic rule, represented Her Majesty as looking to the left, was taken as a model for this portrait, the engraving of which for the postage label was entrusted to Mr. Charles Heath. That eminent artist engraved it in line upon a steel die, and a finer specimen of engraver's work was perhaps never executed.† The intricate reticulated background surrounding the head, and the framework of the sides, were engraved mechanically by Messrs. Bacon and Petch by the application of one of the inventions of Mr. Perkins before referred to.‡ On a tablet above the head is the word POSTAGE,

* This celebrated medal, afterwards engraved by Freebairn by anaglyptograph, was the work of Mr. William Wyon, A.R.A., Chief Engraver of Seals to the Queen, and Engraver to the Mint, and not only served as a model for the head of Her Majesty on the adhesive postage labels, but also, as we shall see hereafter, for that executed by Mr. Wyon for the embossed stamps. Mr. Wyon died in 1851.

† Mr. Heath died 18th November, 1848. He was occupied six weeks in the engraving of the head on the die, which, as completed, did not include the whole of his labours, as essays show that it was the combined outgrowth of two others previously engraved by him. He received the sum of fifty guineas for his work.

‡ That this background was considered as one of the principal features in the stamp is shown by the following extract from Sir Rowland Hill's

in white letters, on a ground of close vertical lines; and below is another tablet, with the value in full, ONE PENNY, also in white letters, on a similar ground. In the four angles are white blocks one-tenth of an inch square, for the reception of the lettering, which up to the year 1860-1 was confined to the two lower blocks, the upper ones being filled in with ornaments in the form of Maltese crosses.*



The stamp so completed forms a plain rectangular parallelo-

History of Penny Postage, which we would recommend to the consideration of the authorities of the present day, who, in the immunity from fraud in the matter of stamps which the Post Office has hitherto enjoyed, seem to have forgotten all the precautions which were originally taken to guard against it. Sir Rowland Hill writes: "It will be easily perceived that if imitation cannot be effected without resort to the means above described, as used in the production of the stamps, forgery is in itself impracticable; since no forger can have the command of very powerful, delicate, and therefore costly machinery, requiring for its management skilful and therefore highly paid workmen. If the Queen's head alone constituted the effigy, something in imitation might be done by the aid of lithography, or some other such copying process; but this fails when applied to the extremely delicate lines already mentioned as constituting the background, which in the lithographer's hands do but smirch the paper."— *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 408.

§ The die itself is a plate of steel about a quarter of an inch thick, and from two to two and a half inches square, and was engraved in the following manner: A rectangular piece of mechanical lathe-work was first of all engraved upon it to form the background, a portion of which in the form of the profile was scraped out, and on this blank space Mr. Heath subsequently engraved the head of Her Majesty. The tablets with the words POSTAGE and ONE PENNY were then added, with blank squares in the four corners, in the two upper ones of which Maltese crosses were subsequently engraved. The original matrix of the one penny was then complete. That of the twopence was made from a reproduction of the one penny die, the words TWO PENCE being substituted for ONE PENNY in the lower tablet, and this constituted the original die of the twopence. By this means absolute uniformity of design was secured for the two values. It ought to be mentioned that one and the same roller impression was used to create every one of the two hundred and forty impressions forming the plate of stamps, and other impressions on the roller were similarly used for other plates. Hence for each plate but one roller impression was used.

gram, measuring about three-fourths of an inch in width by seven-eighths of an inch in height, or $18\frac{3}{4}$ by $22\frac{1}{4}$ millimètres.*

Considering the novelty of the task, it must be admitted that the result, both as regards design and execution, proved highly successful, the best evidence of which is that it retained its place in its original form for nearly forty years, during which period it was not only the parent of thousands of millions of impressions for the requirements of its own country,† but has served as a model for the postage stamps of half the countries of the world.

DIE II.—Towards the close of the year 1854 the large and increasing numbers of inferior impressions attracted the notice of the authorities, when it was represented to them, that, however fit the original matrix was to produce roller impressions

* It will be observed that the English and French measurements frequently differ from each other, as one has not been taken *from* the other, but both have been taken separately. The French one will consequently be found the most accurate, as the scale admits of more minute subdivisions than the English, without the necessity of having recourse to decimals or very minute fractions.

† In the *Life of Sir Rowland Hill* the editor gives a return from the Board of Inland Revenue of the number of postage stamps issued from the 27th April, 1840, to December 31st, 1879, which we here transcribe.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 1,600,276,320 | Labels of | ... | ... | $\frac{1}{2}$ d. |
| 20,699,858,040 | " | ... | ... | 1d. |
| 42,638,160 | " | ... | ... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. |
| 338,520,280 | " | ... | ... | 2d. |
| 105,829,824 | " | ... | ... | $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. |
| 158,526,040 | " | ... | ... | 3d. |
| 153,815,320 | " | ... | ... | 4d. |
| 158,721,280 | " | ... | ... | 6d. |
| 4,608,720 | " | ... | ... | 8d. |
| 7,635,080 | " | ... | ... | 9d. |
| 5,963,476 | " | ... | ... | 10d. |
| 126,968,940 | " | ... | ... | 1s. |
| 6,475,820 | " | ... | ... | 2s. |
| 5,174,262 | " | ... | ... | 5s. |
| 6,014 | " | ... | ... | 10s. |
| 6,014 | " | ... | ... | £1. |

The money value of the above represents a little more than £111½ millions sterling, of which about 86½ millions are contributed by the one penny stamps alone.

adapted to ordinary circumstances, yet that it failed to produce them of sufficient depth to withstand the actual strain on the plates, which wore out with such rapidity as speedily to yield weak and indistinct impressions.* It was therefore determined to construct a new matrix without interfering with the original one. For this purpose a reproduction of the original die was put into the hands of Mr. William Humphrys, a very skilful and careful engraver,† who limited his work to deepening the lines on the die, chiefly apparent in the shading of the face and the folds of the hair, making some slight alterations in the profile of the nose, and rendering the eyelid more distinct, as this latter, barely visible in the best of the impressions, was entirely invisible in the majority of them. The die thus altered was subsequently exclusively used for the construction of the plates, of which two hundred and four had been constructed from the original matrix.‡ Plates constructed from the retouched die were brought into use at the commencement of the year 1855, when a new series was also commenced. Impressions from Plate No. 1 of this new series were approved of on the 15th January, 1855.

The original die will be designated Die I., and the retouched die, Die II. ; § and in the majority of cases no difficulty arises in discriminating between impressions taken from them. Some

* Between the 12th December, 1848, and the 30th November, 1854, no fewer than one hundred and twenty-three plates were constructed.

† Mr. W. Humphrys was employed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. principally in engraving vignettes for bank-notes and other like securities printed by them; but some of the Colonial stamps furnished by that firm were due to his *burin*. He died at Genoa, 21st January, 1865.

‡ It must not be supposed that the manufacturers necessarily had recourse to the original matrix whenever it was requisite to construct a new plate. This was only necessary when fresh roller impressions were required, all of which were taken direct from the matrix.

The actual number of the plates constructed from Die I. was two hundred and nineteen, consisting of two hundred and four regularly numbered, one duplicate (77B) and fourteen reserve plates, numbered R. 1, R. 2, etc.

§ To prevent mistakes, the second dies, both of the 1d. and 2d., had new engraved upon them. (*Vide inf.*, "Essays," &c.)

badly-printed impressions from Die II. are, it is true, liable to be mistaken for impressions from Die I., and in such cases nothing but careful and minute examination will solve the question; still, as a rule, the more finished and regular appearance of the impressions from Die II. will leave no doubt as to the origin of any particular specimen.

PLATE.—The plate consisted of a single pane of two hundred and forty stamps in twenty rows of twelve in each row, thus having the facial value of £1, and constituting a Post Office sheet. On each of the margins the following legend was engraved in italics: "PRICE 1d. per label; 1s. per row of 12; £1 per sheet. Place the label ABOVE the address and towards the RIGHT-HAND SIDE of the letter. In wetting the back be careful not to remove the cement." In addition to the plate and official numbers there was a floriated ornament on each side-margin opposite the point between the tenth and eleventh rows, serving to facilitate the division of the sheet in half.

Sometime, most probably in the year 1861, an alteration was made in the plates by the insertion of the plate numbers in the reticulated framework of the stamps in minute numerals in white, an alteration which had been carried out in the year 1858



in the two penny value. This was effected by engraving the numerals on the roller impression used for producing the plate prior to its being hardened. At the same time the lettering, which up to that time had been confined to the two lower angles, was extended to the two upper angles, and block, or Egyptian, letters substituted for

the Roman capitals previously employed. These changes were effected when Plate No. 69 of the second series appeared, the impression from which bearing the *imprimatur* is not found;*

* The impression from Plate No. 68, with the *imprimatur* dated 18th January, 1858, as also the impression from Plate No. 72, the *imprimatur* on which is dated 14th March, 1861, are to be found in the archives at Somerset House; but impressions from Plates Nos. 69, 70, and 71 are not

but it appears that the actual issue to the public did not take place until the 15th May, 1864.*

No further change was made during the continuance of the contract with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. Under this contract Plate No. 225 was the last constructed, the impression from which received the *imprimatur* on the 31st December, 1878, so that from first to last four hundred and fifty plates had been made; viz., two hundred and nineteen for Series I. from 1840 to the end of 1854, and two hundred and twenty-five numbered plates, and six reserved plates for Series II. from January 1855 to the end of 1879.

PAPER.—The sheet measured twenty inches long by twelve inches wide. The space necessary for so much of the plate as was occupied by the stamps was marked out by a watermarked border of five parallel lines, interrupted twice on each side and once at the top and bottom by the insertion of the word *POSTAGE* in double-lined capitals.

Within this border were two hundred and forty small crowns, watermarked in the paper, so disposed as that one should fall under each stamp. These "bits" were made of fine wire, twisted by hand into the form of a crown, and varied slightly both in size and form during the period they were employed. They are readily distinguishable from the pattern next described by the invariable presence of a perpendicular line surmounted by a cross running down the centre. Certain letters are found watermarked at the edge of the sheet, but these only refer to the accounts kept of the manufacture.

to be found, and unfortunately this is not the only instance of impressions from plates presenting interesting features being omitted in the official collection. The alteration above referred to, as we learn from Mr. Bacon, occurred on Plate 69. We have not met with specimens bearing a number previous to 70; but the engravers in the employ of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. remember the circumstance from the coincidence of the number with that of their establishment in Fleet Street, No. 69.

* The records of the Post Office give the date of the issue to the public as June, 1864, but it is clear that it was in circulation on 15th May, previously to which time specimens had only found their way into collections of amateurs as curiosities.—*Le Timbre-Poste*, 1864, p. 48.

Towards the end of the year 1855 the watermarks in the paper underwent some modification. The watermarks round the sheet were not altered, but the small crowns were replaced by others of larger dimensions. The bits for the new watermark, which will be designated "large crown" to distinguish it from "small crown," were stamped out of thin brass, and were consequently more uniform in their size and form than those made by hand, and more visible in the paper.* It is not possible to fix the exact date when this change was carried out. The sheet printed to receive the *imprimatur* of Plate No. 23 of Die II. is the first on which the "large crown" is found; while that printed from Plate No. 24, which received the *imprimatur* on the same day, 12th November, 1855, is the last on which the "small crown" is found in the records at Somerset House. The inference to be drawn is, that the printers had a stock of paper in hand with both watermarks, and used it indifferently during the transitional period.

IMPRESSION.—After many trials the colour chosen for the impression was black. About the month of August, 1840, it was, for the reasons previously mentioned, determined to change it to red, and to print both it and the twopence in oleaginous colours, which should at the same time be destructible. The stamps in the new colour were ordered to be issued as the stock on hand of those printed in black became exhausted, which was not, however, till early in the month of January following, when the public was furnished with penny stamps of the new colour. Although it was first proposed that the colour should be red, yet that ultimately chosen was rather a red-brown, which may be considered as the normal colour; but during the period that this stamp was current this normal colour has wandered through

* Although these watermarks are the two principal types or patterns, yet several subsidiary varieties of each pattern are found. Thus we find at least three distinct varieties in the shape and size of the "small crown," the one last in use in 1855 being wider and deeper than the one first employed. There are also some varieties of the "large crown," but we have not attempted to chronicle any of these as varieties of watermark, contenting ourselves with simply pointing out their existence.

all shades, from red-brown to brick-red, and from rose-red to lake-red, in a dark shade of which it finished its career.*

The ink was applied thickly, and was liable to rub off, as most collectors know by experience.

PERFORATION.—After the sheets had been printed and gummed they underwent the final process of perforation, as has been already described. Occasionally it has happened that a sheet of stamps has been accidentally passed over without having been perforated, and has been issued in that condition, but such an accident has been one of the rarest possible occurrence. Some sheets of the one penny stamp were so issued in March, 1870, but probably the most noteworthy example was that which occurred in 1873, when one or two sheets of that value, which had escaped perforation, found their way to the Cardiff post-office, and were on sale there for a few days. The circumstance did not fail to attract the notice of collectors at the time, and it obtained for the stamps in question the singular honour of being chronicled in a foreign catalogue as a rare *local variety* for the town of Cardiff.

SYNOPSIS.

I.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “small crown.” Imperforate. 6th May, 1840. One penny, black.

II.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “small crown.” Imperforate. January, 1841 to 1854. One penny, red-brown, brick-red red (varying shades of each).

VARIETIES.

1847. One Penny, red-brown, *rouletted* (*Archer's first machine*).

1848. One Penny, red-brown, *regular incisions* (*Archer's second machine*).

1849. One Penny, red-brown, *oval perforations 15* (*Archer's third machine*).

* In the course of the proceedings before the Committee of 1852 some sheets of stamps were produced, one of which had been printed ten years previously. The evidence given before the Committee tended to show that the remarkable variations in colour were in a great measure due to the effects produced by time and atmospheric influences on some of the colouring ingredients used in the composition of the ink.

III.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “small crown.” Perforated.

1854–1855. One Penny, red-brown, brick-red (shades), *perf.* 16.

1855. One Penny, red-brown (shades), *perf.* 14.*

IV.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “small crown.” Perforated.

1855. One Penny, red-brown (shades), *perf.* 16.

1855. One Penny, red-brown, brick-red (shades), *perf.* 14.†

* The introduction of a new series printed from Die II. in January, 1855, the change in the watermark of the paper in November, 1855, and the alteration of the gauge of the perforations, which also commenced to be carried out in 1855, combined to make considerable confusion in the period from 1854 to 1856.

From a comparison of the dates it will be perceived that Die II. was brought into use about eleven months before the watermark on the paper was changed from “small” to “large crown.” Hence we find all the varieties we should expect of impressions from Dies I. and II. on paper watermarked “small crown.”

Prior to the 12th November, 1855, we find that seventeen plates constructed from Die II. had been approved, all the impressions from which were struck on “small crown” paper. On the 12th November, 1855, fifteen plates from Die II. were approved, the impressions from ten of which are on “small crown,” and the remaining five on “large crown” paper. As at that period not more than about fifteen plates were required to be in daily use, it is not probable, though it may be possible, that when the “large crown” paper was introduced any of the presses were furnished with plates from Die I. After the most careful research we have been unable to find any satisfactory specimens from Die I., either imperforate or perforated, printed on paper watermarked “large crown,” and we have such strong doubts of their existence that we have omitted them from the list, though they have been chronicled by others.

† We are aware that an imperforate variety of Die II., watermarked with “small crown,” has been said to exist, and many copies have been produced to us in evidence of the fact. After careful examination of the specimens, we are convinced that they are only good impressions from Die I. It is, however, by no means beyond the bounds of possibility that the variety exists, as a sheet in the early days of perforation might have easily passed in an imperforated state, and been so issued, though we have failed to find a copy. Without further evidence of its existence we have thought it best to omit it.

V.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” Perforated.

1856. One Penny, red-brown, brick-red (shades), *perf.* 16.

1856 to 1864. One Penny, red-brown, brick-red, rose, rose-red (shades), *perf.* 14.

VARIETY.

One Penny, light rose-red, *imperforate*.

VI.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” Letters in all four angles. Plate numbers on stamps, commencing with No. 69, and ending with No. 225. *Perf.* 14.

15th May, 1864, to 1880. One Penny, rose-red, carmine-red, lake-red (shades of each).

VARIETY.

One Penny, rose-red, *imperforate*. Plates Nos. 107, 116, and 186.

The following table, composed from an examination of the sheets preserved in the archives at Somerset House, may prove useful as showing some of the variations in the colour of the impressions and of the paper, as also the periods at which certain plates were brought into use.

SERIES I. DIE I. (Heath's head).

Pl. No. 1, approved 27th April, 1840, impression black.

| | | | | | |
|-------|---|------------------|---------|----------------|----------------------|
| ” 8 | ” | 31st July, 1840 | ” | ” | |
| ” 12 | ” | 25th Feb., 1841, | impres. | red-brown, | paper very blue. |
| ” 21 | ” | 11th Dec., 1841 | ” | brick-red | ” very little trace. |
| ” 24 | ” | 17th March, 1842 | ” | red-brown | ” faint trace. |
| ” 31 | ” | 21st Jan., 1843 | ” | deep red-brown | ” slight trace. |
| ” 42 | ” | 23rd Jan., 1844 | ” | red | ” decidedly blue. |
| ” 53 | ” | 7th Jan., 1845 | ” | red | ” slightly blue. |
| ” 65 | ” | 2nd Feb., 1846 | ” | red-brown | ” much bluer. |
| ” 78 | ” | 14th Jan., 1847 | ” | red | ” slightly blue. |
| ” 77B | ” | 12th Jan., 1848 | ” | dark red-brown | ” very blue. |
| ” 90 | ” | 25th May, 1849 | ” | brown-red | ” blue. |
| ” 104 | ” | 12th June, 1850 | ” | red | ” blue. |
| ” 112 | ” | 1st Jan., 1851 | ” | brownish-red | ” very blue. |
| ” 134 | ” | 6th Feb., 1852 | ” | red-brown | ” very little blue. |
| ” 161 | ” | 14th Jan., 1853 | ” | reddish-brown | ” slightly blue. |
| ” 179 | ” | 13th Feb., 1854 | ” | red | ” some traces. |
| ” 204 | ” | 30th Nov., 1854 | ” | deep red | ” faint blue. |

With this latter plate Series I. ended.

SERIES II. DIE II. (Humphrys' retouch).

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Pl. No. 1, | approved 15th Jan., 1855, | impression red-brown, | paper blue. |
| „ 23* | „ 12th Nov., 1855 | „ red | „ blue. |
| „ 32 | „ 16th Jan., 1856 | „ red | „ faint blue. |
| „ 51 | „ 25th June, 1856 | „ red | „ slight blue. |

The impression from this plate is the last which shows any trace of blue on the paper.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Plate No. 55, | approved 11th February, 1857, | impression carmine-red. |
| „ 61 | „ 18th January, 1858 | „ lake-carmine. |

The plate numbers were inserted on the face of the stamps, commencing with Plate No. 69, and consequently the colour of the impression will thenceforward be apparent from the specimens.

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Plate No. 71, | approved 14th March, 1861. |
| „ 75 | „ 7th February, 1863. |
| „ 82 | „ 1st March, 1864. |
| „ 98 | „ 10th March 1865. |
| „ 108 | „ 23rd March, 1868. |
| „ 125 | „ 5th February, 1869. |
| „ 139 | „ 2nd February, 1870. |
| „ 150 | „ 24th April, 1871. |
| „ 156 | „ 12th January, 1872. |
| „ 168 | „ 14th October, 1873. |
| „ 181 | „ 13th April, 1874. |
| „ 187 | „ 20th April, 1875. |
| „ 195 | „ 9th March, 1876. |
| „ 206 | „ 10th May, 1877. |
| „ 213 | „ 25th February, 1878. |
| „ 225 | „ 31st December, 1878. |

Plate No. 225 was the last of the Series II., and was in use at the termination of the contract at the close of 1879.

The history of the one penny stamp would not be complete without referring to the Official one penny stamp, known to philatelists as the V.R. stamp, and the Reprint of the one penny, in black, on paper watermarked with a "large crown."

THE V.R. STAMP.

Simultaneously with the issue of the one penny stamp to the public in 1840, a stamp expressly intended only for official correspondence was also prepared. In design it was an exact

* Plate No. 23 is the first in which the impression appears on paper watermarked with the *large crown*.

counterpart of the one penny stamp then issued, with the single exception that the upper angles, instead of being completed by the insertion of Maltese crosses, were occupied by the letters V.R. in Roman capitals. The paper and watermark, the number of stamps on the sheet, and the marginal inscriptions, were identical with those of the one penny stamp; but in lieu of the plate being numbered at the four corners with a numeral a capital A was employed. The project of franking official correspondence with special adhesive stamps was abandoned at the



outset, and never after carried into execution.* The stamp therefore which had been prepared for the purpose was not issued, and it is believed that but very few sheets were printed. The Congress of Philatelists in Paris, in 1878, discussed the question as to whether this stamp was ever issued, or was to be regarded as an essay; but the question is really not open to controversy; for it must be regarded as belonging to that category of stamps which, after having been officially prepared for issue, have not been put into circulation. It has also been attempted to draw an inference in favour of its having been issued for postal purposes,

* When franking by members of the Legislature was abolished by the Act 2 and 3 Vict., c. 52, Her Majesty, ever ready to set a good example, also abandoned her privilege of franking, and it was determined that all other such privileges should cease at the same time. Account was therefore ordered to be kept in the Government offices of the amount paid for postage by each office, and an annual vote for the total was inserted in the estimates for the year. This system was afterwards relaxed in favour of a few of the principal offices, and one of the officials in each of such offices was authorised to frank official correspondence by affixing his signature to the face of the letter, which was in practice done with a hand-stamp bearing a *fac-simile* of the signature. In 1868 the rule was still further relaxed, and the privilege extended to all the departments of the Government. By the last returns which have appeared in the reports of the Postmaster-General (those for the year ending 31st March, 1879), it appears that the weight of official correspondence, &c., conveyed during the year by the Post Office amounted to about five hundred and eighty tons, the postage on which would have been upwards of £108,000, and this was independent of the correspondence of the Post Office itself.

from the fact that copies are found obliterated with a postal hand-stamp. But this proves nothing, as some of the printed sheets were utilised for experiments in obliterating ink and marks. The essay of obliteration most commonly found on the stamp is composed of concentric circles, but occasionally the *croix patée* is met with. It is also not impossible that some copy or other may wittingly or unwittingly have been sent through the post, where it would readily have passed undetected by the stampers, and have been obliterated as a matter of course.

The sheet preserved in the archives of the Inland Revenue Department shows that the impression was struck on 15th April, 1840, and the plate formally approved on the 27th of the same month.

SYNOPSIS.

1840. Paper watermarked with "small crown." V.R. in upper angles. Imperforate.

One Penny, black. (never issued.)

THE ONE PENNY REPRINT.

A rather remarkable reprint of the One Penny Stamp in its original colour was made in the year 1864. Some of the younger branches of the Royal Family had commenced to form a collection of Postage Stamps, and application was made to the Inland Revenue Department for specimens. None of the one penny printed in black being found in stock, in order to comply with the request preferred on the part of their Royal Highnesses, some copies were ordered to be struck off from one of the plates kept in reserve at Somerset House, constructed from Die II., but with the Maltese crosses in the upper angles. As the paper watermarked with the "small crown" had long since ceased to be supplied, the impression was made on paper watermarked with the "large crown." Specimens of these reprints are rare, as but few copies were printed. They are mere curiosities, never having been intended for issue or to be used for postal purposes, and therefore cannot be regarded as stamps. Their existence is only recorded here from a desire to make the

history as complete as possible, and to enable collectors to account for their peculiar features should they meet with specimens.*

SYNOPSIS.

1864. Paper watermarked with "large crown." Imperforate.
One penny, black (reprint).

2. THE TWOPENCE (1840).

Date of Issue, May, 1840.†

DESIGN.—DIE I.—The design is identical with that of the one penny, the die being, as before stated, a reproduction from the original die of the one penny, the only variation consisting in the necessary alteration of the lower tablet, on which the value TWO PENCE is inscribed in place of ONE PENNY. This die will be distinguished as Die I.

In February, 1841, a slight change was made in the design by the introduction of two horizontal white lines, the one immediately below, and the other above, the upper and lower tablets, made by drawing them on a roller impression of the matrix, and consequently causing no alteration in the die. The change cannot be called an improvement, but it is said to have been done as a matter of expediency to render the two-



* The specimen from which the above description is taken is that in the collection of Mr. Philbrick, who received it from the late solicitor to the Stamp Office. It is gummed, and bears the lettering of R. H. in the lower angles. The watermark of the "large crown" is upside down.

† We have been at some pains to endeavour to ascertain the exact date when this issue took place. Unfortunately the early stamp records of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. were destroyed in a fire which occurred in their premises in 1857, so that we have been unable to obtain information from them respecting many early events. Impressions from Plates 1 and 2 are not to be found among the archives at Somerset House, but through the kindness of the head of the Stamping Department there the records have been searched, and it has been ascertained that the stamp was approved in May, 1840. A minute search in the records of the Post Office has been made, and the Secretary has informed us that the issue took place in London in May, 1840, and in the country in the following month.

penny stamp more easily distinguishable from that of the one penny. Plate No. 3, the impression from which was approved on the 25th February, 1841, is the first on which these lines appear, and no change was made either in Plate No. 4 or Plate 5, the former of which received its *imprimatur* on 6th December, 1849, and the latter on 8th June, 1855.

Plate No. 6 was approved 15th February, 1857, and impressions from it are readily distinguishable from those taken from Plates Nos. 3, 4, and 5, as the white lines drawn on the roller were rendered somewhat less prominent.

DIE II.—In April, 1858, a new die was made for the twopence from a reproduction of Die II. of the one penny, as strengthened by Humphrys at the end of 1854. Why the preparation of a new die for the twopence should have been so long delayed does not appear; but it was probably owing to the demand for the stamps being very limited, and the strain on the plates consequently but feeble. This new die will be referred to as Die II. to distinguish it from that last described, and it was employed for the first time in the construction of plate No. 7, completed 18th May, 1858, impressions from which were approved 11th June following.*

PLATE.—The plate consisted of two hundred and forty stamps in twenty rows of twelve each, representing a facial value of £2; but a mark of division in a wedge-like form was engraved on the side margins between the tenth and eleventh rows to indicate where the sheet might be separated into two halves, each half sheet of the facial value of £1 being treated by the Post Office as an entire and separate sheet for the purpose of office computation. The legends on the margins of the plate were identical with those on the plate of the one penny, save the requisite changes in value to 2d. per label and 2s. per row of twelve.

The plates were originally numbered by numerals at the four

* It is almost unnecessary to state, that Die II. of the twopence being, like Die I., made from a reproduction of the corresponding die of the one penny, there were no white lines on the die itself, which continued to be inserted in the manner before pointed out.

corners, but when plate No. 12 was brought into use the plate numbers were enclosed in small circles, and the official number of the plate was introduced into the margins.

As has been stated above, plates Nos. 1 to 6 were constructed from the original die, but when plate No. 7 was constructed from Die II. some important alterations were made in the stamp, which were subsequently extended to that of one penny. The Maltese crosses in the upper angles were suppressed, and letters, the reverse of those in the lower angles, were substituted for them, the whole of which were in block or Egyptian letters, in lieu of the Roman capitals previously employed. At the same time also the number of the plate was inserted in minute figures in the net-work pattern of the frame on both sides.

Plate No. 8 was approved 7th July, 1859; and plate No. 9 14th March, 1861. Impressions from plates Nos. 10 and 11 are not found at Somerset House, nor have any specimens of stamps bearing these numbers been discovered, and as no record of the manufacture of these plates has been traced by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., we may safely assume that they were not constructed. Plate No. 12 was approved 1st January, 1868; plate No. 13 on 31st March, 1869; plate No. 14 on 24th April, 1871; and plate No. 15 on 3rd September, 1875. This latter plate was in use up to the expiration of the contract with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., at the close of 1879. It may be noticed that on the whole of these last three plates the white lines are thinner than on any of the former plates.



PAPER.—The paper employed was similar in all respects to that employed for the impression of the one penny. The first plate from which the impression deposited at Somerset House was taken off on paper watermarked with a “large crown” is No. 6, before referred to, but this paper was used during the continuance of Plate No. 5.

IMPRESSION.—The colour originally adopted was Prussian-

blue, which continued with variations of depth of shade to be the normal colour up to the expiration of the contract at the close of 1879; but of late years the blue was somewhat darker and more purple in tone. The ink first employed was the ordinary blue printer's ink, rather pale in colour; but the ingredients were changed at the end of the year 1840, so as to render it destructible, and thus avoid the danger of the effacing marks being removed by cleaning.

GUM.—The adhesive composition employed was the same as that used for the one penny stamps; but the effect of the chemical action between the blue ink and the potato starch is not so pronounced as was the case in the one penny stamps; besides which a diffused blue tint is found on many of the specimens arising from the absorption by the damped paper of a certain amount of colour. This tint varied in depth, inasmuch as it principally depended on the cleaning off of the plate in the process of printing.

PERFORATION.—The observations already made are applicable to this value, all the changes in perforation being made simultaneously with those in the one penny. It does not appear that any experiments with Archer's machines were tried on sheets of the twopence, as no specimens have ever been met with.

SYNOPSIS.

I.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with "small crown." Imperforate.
June, 1840. Twopence, light blue, deep blue (shades).

II.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with "small crown." White lines inserted below POSTAGE and above TWO PENCE. Imperforate.
March, 1841 to 1854. Twopence, deep blue (shades).

III.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with "small crown." White lines, as in II. Perforated.
1854-1855. Twopence, blue (shades), *perf.* 16.
1855. Twopence, blue (shades), *perf.* 14.

IV.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” White lines, as in II. Perforated.

1856. Twopence, blue (shades), *perf.* 16.

1856. Twopence, blue (shades), *perf.* 14.

V.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” White lines thinner. Perforated.*

1857. Twopence, deep blue, blue, *perf.* 16.

1857. Twopence, deep blue, *perf.* 14.

VI.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” White lines, as in II. Letters in all four angles. Plate numbers on stamps. Plates Nos. 7 to 12†; *perf.* 14.

July, 1858 to 1869. Twopence, deep blue (shades).

VII.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “large crown.” White lines thin. Plates Nos. 13 to 15; *perf.* 14.

1869 to 1880. Twopence, blue, dark blue, violet-blue (shades).

VARIETY.

Twopence, blue, deep blue, *imperforate.* Plate No. 13.

3. THE THREE HALFPENCE (1870).

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.

This stamp was originally designed and the die of it engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. in 1860, in contemplation

* Plates Nos. 1 and 2 were employed for I., Plates Nos. 3, 4, and 5 for II., III., and IV., and Plate No. 6 for V. As this latter plate was brought into use so late as February, 1857, it is remarkable as shewing that the perforation 16 was still in use in some of the machines up to that period, though specimens of impressions so perforated are somewhat rare.

† Plates No. 10 and 11 were not made.

of an alteration in the postal rates, which failed to secure the assent of Parliament.*

DESIGN.—The design consists in a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left, engraved on steel in the same manner as the die for the one penny, and on a ground mechanically engraved after a similar design. The head is enclosed by a triangular curvilinear band in the form of a shield, the apex resting on the exterior line of the rectangular frame at the bottom, while the curved line of the side opposite the apex touches the exterior line of the frame at the top. On this band,



which is in white, is POSTAGE on one side, THREE on that opposite the apex, and HALFPENCE on the other, the intervening spaces being filled up with a scroll-patterned ornament. The usual white letter blocks are inserted in the four angles, and the size of the stamp is the same as that of the one penny, measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

It may be remarked that the profile, though engraved after the model of the one penny, falls very far short of the original. The form of the triangular band also necessitated a change in the lower part of the bust, which is so shortened as to take away the repose which distinguishes that engraved by Mr. Heath.

PLATE.—The plate consisted of two hundred and forty stamps in twenty rows, of twelve in each row, thus presenting the

* A considerable provision appears to have been printed from the first plate of the die, which was approved of on 22nd March, 1860. The proposed issue was printed in lilac-rose, and perforated 14. The sheet on which the *imprimatur* is endorsed is deeply tinged with the blue discoloration, which had at that time absolutely ceased in the case of the one penny and twopence. The proposed alterations in the postal rates not having been carried out, the stock was ordered to be destroyed, but some few sheets were preserved, and copies are also found surcharged with "specimen." These stamps are not common, and when met with are readily distinguishable from the issue of 1870 by the colour of the impression. Although the *imprimatur* sheet and many specimens are found deeply discoloured, yet other impressions are found in which the discoloration is much less marked. ●

facial value of £1 10s., and constituting a Post Office sheet. On the top, bottom, and side margins was engraved the following legend: "PRICE 1½d. per label; 1s. 6d. per row of twelve; £1 10s. per sheet. Place the labels ABOVE the address," &c., as in the plate of one penny. The plate and official numbers were also inserted in the margins, as also the mark indicating the point where the sheet was divisible into halves, in the same manner as in the plate of the one penny.

IMPRESSION.—The original plate constructed in 1860 was employed for printing the first supply of these stamps, and it was not until the 13th April, 1874, that another plate appears to have received the *imprimatur*. This was numbered 3, and minute figures of 3 were introduced into the reticulated border of the stamp in the first entire lozenge immediately above the two lower letter blocks. Plate No. 2 is not found, and was never used. The stamp was employed on a very limited scale, and Plate No. 3 was still in use at the expiration of the contract with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., and most probably its issue was due rather to the fact that the die and the plate were in existence than from any particular call for its issue on the part of the public.

LETTERING.—This was precisely similar to that on the one penny and twopenny stamps.

PAPER.—This was also the same as that employed for the last-mentioned stamps, having the same watermark in the margins and the "large crown" on each stamp.

The colour of the impression was lake-red, at times approaching very closely to some of the shades of colour of the one penny.

PERFORATION, &c.—The gumming and perforation were the same as in the one penny and twopence.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "large crown." Plates 1 and 3, the first not numbered on the face; perf. 14.

1st October, 1870 to 1880. Three halfpence, lake-red (shades).

VARIETY.

Three halfpence, lake-red (Plate 1), *imperforate*.

4. THE HALFPENNY (1870).

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.

DESIGN.—The die was engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., and the design consists of a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left on a white ground within an upright oval medallion, standing in a rectangular frame, the groundwork of which is mechanically engraved in lattice work. At each angle is a white square block for receiving the letters, and



the spaces on each side between the upper and lower blocks are filled in with a solid ground of colour, on which " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." is inserted in white. The plate numbers are found in the reticulated border of the framework on each side in minute figures in white, as in the one penny. The stamp measures 18 mm. in width by 14 mm. in height, and its diminutive size rendered it inconvenient in use, though it doubtless was acceptable to the officials as preventing confusion.

PLATE.—The plate consisted of four hundred and eighty stamps in twenty rows, of twenty-four in each row, thus presenting the facial value of £1, and constituting a Post Office sheet. On the top, bottom, and side margins the following legend was engraved: "PRICE $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per label; 1s. per row of 24; £1 per sheet. Place the labels ABOVE and at the RIGHT-HAND side of the address. In wetting the back be careful not to remove the cement." The number of the plate was inserted in a small circle at each of the four corners of the plate, and at the top and bottom between the twelfth and thirteenth stamp in the row, a fan-shaped ornament was introduced into the margins, indicating the point of division of the sheet into halves. The official number was on the upper margin of the left half, and in the lower margin of the right half.

The issue commenced with Plate No. 1, approved on the 20th June, 1870. Plate No. 2 was never finished; plate No. 7 was not made, nor were Nos. 16, 17, and 18, but with these

exceptions plates numbered in consecutive order followed uninterruptedly. Plate No. 20, which was the last constructed previously to the expiration of the contract at the close of the year 1879, was approved on 31st December, 1878.

LETTERING.—The lettering of the stamps was on the same system as that employed for the other values; but as they were more numerous in the horizontal rows, those on the first row were necessarily lettered in the lower angles from A.A. to A.Y., and in the upper from A.A. to Y.A.

PAPER.—The paper was similar to that on which the one penny stamp was printed, though rather thinner. The sheet measured twenty-one inches in length by fourteen inches in depth, and was watermarked with the word HALFPENNY in cursive hand, repeated eight times in the length and twenty times in the depth, so as to extend horizontally over three stamps. The only watermark in the border was at each end of the sheet, where the words "Postage Stamps" in cursive hand are found.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was lake-red, and varied but little during the continuance of the issue except that at times the colour approached more or less to rose-red.

PERFORATION, &c.—The perforation was the usual one of 14. The perforation was not made from the top to the bottom of the sheet, but from end to end, and it may be remarked that it was not continued after the twenty-third row, so that the twenty-fourth was only perforated on three sides. The gumming was the same as in the preceding values.

REMARKS.—This stamp was called into existence when the rate on newspapers and book-post parcels was reduced, a half-penny then becoming the unit of calculation in respect of them. The first order given was for nearly six hundred millions, and though, on account of the extensive use of halfpenny wrappers, the demand has not kept pace with the expectations of the authorities, it is still very considerable, and in point of numbers ranks next after that of the one penny.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "HALFPENNY" extending over three stamps. Plates 1 to 20, except 2, 7, 16, 17, and 18; perf. 14.

1st Oct., 1870 to 1880. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., lake-red, rose-red (shades of both).

VARIETY.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. lake-red, *imperforate*. Plate No. 5.

SECTION II.

EMBOSSSED STAMPS.

- (1) THE ONE SHILLING . issued 13th September, 1847.
- (2) THE TENPENCE . „ 6th November, 1848.
- (3) THE SIXPENOE . „ 1st March, 1854.

This Section, consisting of three values only, comprises the whole of the adhesive postage stamps ever manufactured by the Inland Revenue Department, having been embossed in colour and gummed on the government premises at Somerset House.

In consequence of a manifest desire on the part of the public that the prepayment of letters by means of stamps, more especially as applicable to foreign and colonial letters, should be facilitated by the issue of stamps of a higher value than those then in use, it was decided to issue a stamp of the value of one shilling, adapted for the prepayment of the then existing single letter rates to the United States of America and the Colonies. This was followed up in the next year by the issue of one of the value of tenpence, principally intended for the prepayment of the then existing single letter rate to France. The sixpence was not issued till some years later, to afford more ready means for paying the reduced rate on Belgian and certain other foreign letters, as also the registration fee of sixpence, then in force. The manufacture of these stamps was undertaken by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and the designs were prepared by Mr. Ormond Hill. The dies, so far as related to the embossed head of the Queen, were constructed by Mr. William Wyon, at the workshops of the Mint, and his initials

appear on the base of the Queen's bust on each working die, accompanied by a numeral denoting its index number.* The border, or framing, with the reticulated pattern of mechanical lathe-work engraved upon it, was designed and executed by Mr. Moss, an engraver since dead. The stamps were struck in colour by the colour-embossing presses of the Department, but were not much appreciated by the public, as in order to produce a high relief, the paper employed was thick, nearly of the substance of cartridge paper, and this rendered it difficult to make them adhere firmly to the letter.

As each stamp was struck separately, the process of the manufacture was necessarily exceedingly tedious.

The gum employed was common gum arabic of a yellowish tinge, frequently imparting a similar hue to the paper. The gum was applied thickly, and the operation was performed after the stamps were struck, for the cavities caused by the embossing are frequently found to be filled with gum.

Copies of all these stamps are found surcharged SPECIMEN. Although copies of the one penny adhesive stamp had been forwarded to every postmaster previously to its issue, with instructions to preserve them in order to compare them in case of doubt with the stamps on the letters passing through the office, yet they do not appear to have been invariably surcharged with the word SPECIMEN. This surcharge, as applied to adhesives, appears first on these stamps, and the Post-office authorities for many subsequent years continued to send to all the postmasters copies of new values, and frequently of fresh issues of existing values so surcharged, attached to a circular giving the notice of their issue. The system appears to have now fallen into disuse, the last circular of the kind being that which accompanied specimen copies of the adhesive stamps of 10d., 2s., and 5s.,

* The head of the Queen, as engraved by Mr. Wyon, is the same in all the embossing dies; but in the several values the disposition of the back hair is somewhat altered, by making some small addition to the original tress, and varying the pendent curls. Further details will be found in the account of the embossed envelopes of one penny.

issued in 1867. It has not been thought necessary to enumerate those thus surcharged SPECIMEN, but some collectors attach value to them, as indubitably showing early printed copies.

1. THE ONE SHILLING (1847).

Date of Issue, 13th September, 1847.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a diademed profile to the left of Queen Victoria, with pendent bunch of curls embossed in white relief on a solid ground of colour, enclosed in an octagonal frame, ornamented with an interlaced pattern of fine white lines, engine-turned on a solid ground of colour, on which is inscribed, in sunken block letters, POSTAGE on the left vertical side, ONE on the top, and SHILLING on the right vertical side. The stamp measures 24 by 27 mm.



The initials w. w. on the base of the bust have a full stop after each, and are followed by the die number, all in relief. Two dies, numbered 1 and 2, were approved of and used, but die No. 2 appears to have been furnished with date numerals at the end of 1855, and turned to account for stamping envelopes.

PAPER.—The paper made use of was thick "Dickinson" of a light cream colour, manufactured with coloured silk threads running in parallel pairs through the sheet, at a distance from each other of from 4 to 5 mm., and so arranged as to admit of one pair passing through each stamp longitudinally.

IMPRESSION.—A single impression only from each die is found in the archives at Somerset House, struck on a sheet of plain paper, on which is endorsed that "the impressions taken from these dies are allowed to denote the duty of one shilling on the postage of letters." It is a curious fact that this endorsement is dated the 8th February, 1853.

The stamps were struck on small sheets, about the size of half a sheet of note-paper, sufficiently large to admit of twenty impressions in four rows of five in each row.

The colour of the impression was green, varying in shades from emerald to a full deep tone.

The stamp continued in use until it was superseded, in July, 1856, by the type-printed adhesive stamp of similar value.

SYNOPSIS.

13th September, 1847. Embossed with coloured ground on thick cream-coloured "Dickinson" paper. Imperforate.

One Shilling, emerald-green to full deep green.

2. THE TENPENCE (1848).

Date of Issue, 6th November, 1848.

DESIGN.—The design differs but little from that of the one shilling, and the size of the stamp is the same. A small alteration is made in the disposition of the pendent curl, and the pattern of the interlaced ornamentation of the octagonal frame is varied. The inscription on the frame, in sunken block letters, is **POSTAGE** on the left vertical side, **TEN** on the top, and **PENCE** on the right vertical side.



The initials *w. w.*, on the base of the bust in die 1, precede the numeral denoting the number of the die, and are all in relief; but in the subsequent dies the order is reversed, and the numeral precedes the initials. Six working dies were prepared and approved, but we have not found specimens of impressions from more than the first four. They were never employed for any other purpose than for the embossing this adhesive stamp, the only envelopes of the value of tenpence having been stamped with a combination of sixpence and fourpence.

PAPER.—The paper made use of was "Dickinson," similar to that used for the one shilling, though some of the impressions are found on comparatively thin paper, and the pair of parallel threads are frequently less than 4 mm. apart.

IMPRESSION.—The sheet in the archives at Somerset House, on which the allowance was endorsed, has copies of each of the six dies impressed upon it in two rows of three in each row, and, like that of the one shilling, is dated 8th February, 1853.

The stamps were struck on small sheets, similar to those on which the one shilling were struck, but sufficiently large to admit of twenty-four stamps in six rows of four in each row.

The colour of the impression was in chesnut-brown, varying in shades.

When the postage to France was reduced from tenpence to fourpence, on 1st January, 1855, the issue of this stamp was suspended, but the stock remaining on hand was issued for a temporary requirement in 1863.

SYNOPSIS.

6th November, 1848. Embossed with coloured ground on thick cream-coloured "Dickinson" paper. Imperforate.

Tenpence, chesnut-brown (shades).

3. THE SIXPENCE (1854).

Date of Issue, 1st March, 1854.*

DESIGN.—The design differs from that of the two preceding stamps, principally in the shape of the exterior frame, the

* The dates of issue of this and the two preceding stamps have been erroneously given in almost every stamp catalogue. Those here given have been officially supplied to the Society by the Secretary of the General Post Office, and may be implicitly relied on. Philatelists had such a settled idea that the sixpence was issued in 1842, that when Mr. Pearson Hill first mentioned March, 1854, as being the date of issue, but very few were so far convinced as to accept it, and the major part of those who did, accepted it only *sous bénéfice d'inventaire*. To remove any doubts on the part of such sceptics, we annex a copy of the following notice of its issue as published in the *London Gazette*:

"Inland Revenue, Somerset House,

"February, 1854.

"Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have provided a Stamp for denoting the Value of 6d. for Postage, and that such Stamp will be issued to the Public on and after the 1st March next.

By Order of the Board,

"THOMAS KEOGH, Secretary."

upright and horizontal sides of the octagonal frame remaining straight, while the other four are curved. The arrangement of the hair of the Queen is again different, and the pattern of the ornamentation of the border varied. In the lower portion of the frame a bouquet composed of the rose, shamrock, and thistle is introduced. The inscription on the frame, in sunken block letters, is POSTAGE on the left vertical side, SIX on top, and PENCE on the right vertical side. The stamp measures 25 by 28 mm.



The initials w. w., on the base of the bust, are preceded by the numerals denoting the number of the die, all in relief. Specimens printed from die 1 have alone been found by us, though M. Rondot, in his monograph (*Magasin Pittoresque*, 1863, p. 222), speaks of die 2 having been in use. At the end of 1855, while the issue of this stamp as an adhesive was still going on, die No. 2 is found furnished with date numerals, and employed for printing envelopes, but we have failed to meet with any specimen of it as applied to the printing of adhesive stamps.*

PAPER.—The paper was thick, cream-coloured, frequently approaching to straw-colour, hand-made, and watermarked for each stamp with the letters VR in single lined capitals, somewhat resembling the watermark in use at about the same period for some of the fiscal adhesive stamps.

IMPRESSION.—The sheet on which the allowance of the impressions from the working dies was endorsed is not to be found in the archives at Somerset House.

The stamps, like those of the one shilling, were struck on small sheets, adapted to admit of twenty impressions in four rows of five in each row.

* As no registered copies of impressions from the working dies of this value are to be found at Somerset House, it is not possible to ascertain how many were originally constructed; but we have seen a proof impression from one bearing the number 4.

The colour first employed was violet, varying only in depth of shade; but afterwards a reddish-lilac was adopted, of which several shades are also found. It should further be mentioned that the gum on many specimens of the violet impression has a greenish tinge.

The amateurs of misplaced watermarks will find specimens of these both inverted and reversed, owing to the stamper having taken the sheets either the wrong side upwards or the wrong end foremost.

This stamp continued in use until October, 1856, when it was superseded by the issue of a type-printed adhesive stamp of the same value.

SYNOPSIS.

1st March, 1854.—Embossed with coloured ground on thick, cream-coloured, hand-made paper; watermark "VR." Imperforate.

Sixpence, violet (shades).

„ reddish-lilac (shades).

SECTION III.

*TYPE-PRINTED STAMPS.**

These stamps consist of—

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) THE FOURPENCE . | issued 31st July, 1855. |
| (2) THE SIXPENCE . | „ 21st October, 1856. |
| (3) THE ONE SHILLING . | „ 1st December, 1856. |
| (4) THE NINEPENCE . | „ 15th January, 1862. |
| (5) THE THREEPENCE . | „ 1st May, 1862. |
| (6) THE TENPENCE . | „ 1st July, 1867. |
| (7) THE TWO SHILLINGS . | „ 1st July, 1867. |
| (8) THE FIVE SHILLINGS . | „ 1st July, 1867. |
| (9) THE TWO PENCE HALF- PENNY . | „ 1st July, 1875. |
| (10) THE EIGHTPENCE . | „ 1st September, 1876. |
| (11) THE TEN SHILLINGS . | „ 25th September, 1878. |
| (12) THE ONE POUND . | „ 25th September, 1878. |
| (13) THE ONE PENNY . | „ 1st January, 1880. |
| (14) THE ONE HALFPENNY . | „ October, 1880. |
| (15) THE THREE HALFPENCE . | „ October, 1880. |
| (16) THE TWOPENCE . | „ November, 1880. |
| (17) THE FIVEPENCE . | „ 15th March, 1881. |

On the 1st January, 1855, a reduction in the rate of postage to France from tenpence to fourpence came into operation, and there was in consequence a call for the issue of a stamp of this

* In this Section are comprised, not only all the adhesive postage stamps actually in use at the present time, but four which, having been withheld from further issue, have become obsolete; viz., the eightpence, ninepence, and tenpence, originally issued to supply temporary demands for stamps of these denominations, and the two shillings, the demand for which after the issue of telegraph stamps became so limited as to gradually dwindle into insignificance.

latter denomination. So small a measure of success had attended the issue of the embossed adhesive stamps that the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue Department could feel but little encouragement to make further trial of stamps manufactured by such a tedious and costly process. Independently of this, in the interval that had elapsed since the issue of the stamps of one penny and twopence in 1840, not only had experience been gained from the knowledge of what was being done in other countries where the new system of adhesive stamps had been adopted, but great progress had been made in the art of electro-metallurgy. Still, although the ingenious invention for the application of the voltaic circle to multiplying copies of plates for engravings had been brought before the public in the year 1840, it was not till some years after that it received any practical application to the manufacture of postage stamps.

In the autumn of the year 1848 the National Assembly in France decreed the establishment of a uniform rate of postage, to come into effect on the 1st January following. Application was at once made to Messrs. Bacon and Petch by the French Government to ascertain in what space of time and at what price they would undertake to furnish the required provision of stamps; but the answers to both these questions were not satisfactory, and the negotiation was in consequence broken off. The Government, pressed for time, then addressed itself to M. Hulot, a French engraver, who, at a time when the Bank of France was in immediate want of a supply of small notes, had in two months supplied what were required by the aid of the electrotyping or galvanoplastic process. M. Hulot saw his way to the application of a similar process to the manufacture of postage stamps, and succeeded so well in his operations that a week before the 1st January, 1849, when the new law was to come into operation, all the post-offices in France were provided with supplies of stamps, while a surplus of from eight to ten millions remained in stock.

Again, in the year 1851, Messrs. Archer and Branston sub-

mitted to the Inland Revenue Department a proposition offering to print, gum with the best white gum, and perforate, the whole of the adhesive postage stamps required by the Department at the rate of 4½d. per 1,000, provided that they were allowed to print them on the surface principle, similar to that adopted in France. Specimens of what they professed to be able to accomplish by employing this mode of printing were produced by them before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1852. These, known as the "Prince Albert Essays," will be referred to hereafter. But what doubtless principally influenced the authorities in determining in 1855 to make a trial of the typographic system was that at this period Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Co., of Bunhill Row, London, were supplying the Inland Revenue Department with foreign bill and other fiscal adhesive stamps, manufactured by them on this system. This firm therefore received instructions in the spring of 1855 to submit proposals to the Inland Revenue Department for manufacturing a stamp of the value of fourpence on the typographic system, bearing in mind that it was absolutely necessary that all existing safeguards against fraud should be fully maintained.

The proposals of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. having been accepted, and the design submitted by them approved, the stamps were ordered to be printed, and the issue of them to the public took place on the 31st July, 1855. In the following year the manufacture of the sixpence and the one shilling stamps of this Section was also entrusted to the same firm. The manner in which these stamps were executed proved so satisfactory, both to the public and the heads of the Inland Revenue Department, that, as new values were required, all the stamps above the value of twopence were manufactured upon the typographic system, and on the termination of the contracts with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., at the close of the year 1879, for the supply of the stamps of the value of twopence and under, the same system was extended to the whole of the various values required for the postal service.

Before entering upon the consideration of these stamps *seriatim*, it may serve to avoid some useless repetition if we notice certain features which are common to the entire group, any deviations from which will be noted as we proceed with the examination of the several values in detail.

PLATE.—The process by which the plates are constructed is in substance as follows: The design is first of all engraved on steel in relief, as in wood engraving, or, as the French term it, *en épargne*. When letters and plate numbers are to be inserted in the stamps, holes are cut through the die in the places indicated, and the letters and numbers on moveable steel types introduced into them. From this matrix as many moulds are taken, in soft lead, gutta percha, or some similar material, as are necessary to compose a plate of the size required. These moulds or little blocks are then arranged in a form, and an electro-cast taken from the whole, which, after having been properly backed and mounted, constitutes the printing plate. The plates, or “panes,” as they are technically termed, vary in size in the different values. In some, the pane is composed of one entire electro-cast, while in others it is an assemblage of two or more, but this is a matter of detail and convenience which is not material to our subject. Where the entire plate consists of two panes only, they are separated from each other horizontally by a space equal to a row of stamps; but when it consists of four or more distinct panes a like horizontal interval is left between them, and they are usually separated from each other vertically by a space of about half-an-inch in width. Thus in the high values of five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound, the pane consists of twenty casts, disposed in four rows of five in each row, four of which panes constitute an entire sheet; in the twopence-halfpenny the pane until recently consisted of ninety-

* The durability of plates made by the electrotype process will not bear comparison with that of steel plates. We have seen that these latter, when constructed for printing by the copper-plate printing process, have given off on an average about half a million of impressions, while the electrotype plates do not yield a tenth part of this number when the design is of a corresponding degree of fineness.

six casts, disposed in eight rows of twelve in each row, two of which constituted an entire sheet, but now, like as in all the other values, with the exception of the one shilling, the pane consists of one hundred and twenty casts disposed in ten rows of twelve in each row, two of which constitute an entire sheet. As regards, however, the threepence, fourpence, and sixpence, comprised in this latter category, this has not been uniformly the case, and the same remark applies to the eightpence, ninepence, tenpence, and two shillings, now obsolete. So long as the fourpence and eightpence were printed on paper watermarked with a garter, the panes consisted of sixty stamps, disposed in ten rows of six in each row, four of which constituted an entire sheet; while in the threepence, sixpence, ninepence, tenpence, and two shillings, the first three of which were originally printed on paper watermarked with the heraldic emblems of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, and subsequently with a spray of rose, the pane consisted of twenty casts, disposed in five rows of four in each row, twelve of which panes placed within the form in four rows of three in each row, constituted an entire sheet.* This disposition still remains in force as respects the one shilling, though a change is said to be imminent.

* The entire sheet must not be confounded with a "sheet" of stamps in Post-office parlance, which consists of a conventional number of "panes," or parts of a pane, and is adopted by the Department as a convenient mode of calculation when the stamps are forwarded to the various Post-offices. Thus the Post-office sheet of one halfpenny, one penny, and three-halfpence, consists of an entire sheet of 240 stamps, in two panes of 120 each, of the facial value of ten, twenty, and thirty shillings respectively; that of the twopence of half an entire sheet, or one pane of 120 stamps of the facial value of one pound; that of the twopence-half-penny of half an entire sheet, or one pane of one hundred and twenty stamps of the facial value of twenty-five shillings; that of the threepence and sixpence of forty stamps, or one-third of a pane of 120 stamps, but formerly of two panes of twenty in each pane, of the value of ten shillings and one pound respectively; that of the fourpence of sixty stamps or one-half of a pane of 120 stamps, but formerly of one pane of sixty stamps, of the facial value of one pound; that of the fivepence of sixty stamps, or one-half of a pane of 120 stamps of the facial value of twenty-five shillings; that of the eightpence (now obsolete) consisted of thirty stamps (being one-half of a

LETTERING.—Letters are inserted in all the four angles of the whole of the stamps comprised in this Section, manufactured since the commencement of the year 1862, with the exception of the one-halfpenny, three-halfpence, and twopence, produced in 1880, and the fivepence produced in 1881. The lettering is carried out on precisely the same principle as that adopted for the stamps in Section I., notwithstanding that for the sake of convenience the plate may have been composed of two or more panes. Thus, for example, the threepenny stamp, up to the year 1881, was printed in twelve panes, arranged on the entire sheet in four rows of three in each row; the lower angles of the first row of stamps in the first pane of the first row bore the letters A.A., A.B., A.C., A.D., the lower angles of the first row of stamps in the first pane of the second row, the letters F.A., F.B., F.C., and F.D.

PLATE NUMBER.—In the case of all the stamps comprised in this Section, manufactured and issued prior to 1880, the number of the plate was introduced twice into the margin of the sheet; namely, above the right upper corner of the plate, and below the lower left corner, in white figures, on a solid circular disc of the same colour as the impression inclosed in a small similarly coloured ring. The official number of the plate occupied the other corners, and was inserted in coloured figures inclosed in a single lined frame.*

pane of sixty) of the facial value of one pound; that of the ninepence, tenpence, and two shillings (all now obsolete) of one pane of twenty stamps, of the respective values of fifteen shillings, sixteen shillings and eightpence, and two pounds; that of the one shilling consists of one pane of twenty stamps, of the facial value of one pound; and that of five shillings of one pane of twenty, of the facial value of five pounds. The stamps of ten shillings and twenty shillings can be obtained singly by the postmasters from the Inland Revenue Office.

* The plate number was inserted at all the four corners in the two first plates of the fourpence, issued in 1855. With this exception, the official numbers of the plates occupy the corners alternately with the plate numbers. After the introduction of the numbers on the face of the stamps these plate numbers corresponded with them, except in one instance, that of the one shilling mentioned hereafter.

PAPER.—The paper employed from the first for the stamps in this Section is machine-made, with watermarks of different designs introduced into it, and is manufactured expressly for the purpose by Messrs. Turner and Co., of Chafford Mills, Fordcombe, near Tunbridge Wells, under the superintendence and control of officers of the Inland Revenue Department. Formerly watermarks could only be inserted in hand-made paper, but under the modern processes of manufacture machine-made paper can be as readily watermarked as that made by hand. The “bits” for forming the various watermarks are manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and supplied by them to the manufacturers of the paper under the orders of the officer of the Inland Revenue Department.

The paper is wove, and though it may have been occasionally noticed that lines are found in it much resembling those in laid paper, yet such appearances are entirely due to accidental circumstances, and the paper is not less essentially a wove paper.* The paper employed prior to that recently introduced, watermarked with “Crown (1880),” was well made, of fine and firm

* These appearances are more especially noticeable in some of the sheets used for printing the plates Nos. 15 and 18 of the twopence half-penny, and other examples might be adduced; but they are doubtless due to some accidental circumstances, arising probably from unequal pressure in the course of the manufacture, or to inequality in the web of the frame. These and such like unintentional deviations are not of sufficient importance to be treated as varieties, and are only mentioned for the purpose of recording their existence.

It may be mentioned that the web on which the pulp is received is formed of fine wire gauze, closely and evenly woven, the small interstices permitting the watery portion of the pulp to pass through, leaving the solid part behind. This makes *plain wove* paper, or the *papier uni* of the French. If thicker wires, crossing each other at right angles, so as to form a series of squares, are introduced in the gauze, the paper is marked with squares, the *papier quadrillé* of the French. Should the warp be made of thicker wires than the woof, and thus marked with uniformly laid lines, the paper is *laid* or *vergé*. And if again still thicker wires are introduced into the warp at regular intervals, a lined laid paper is produced, called by the French *papier vergé batonné*. When these lines are introduced in the plain wove paper, it is called by the French, *papier batonné sans vergéures intérieures*, or simply *papier batonné*.

texture, of good substance, varying but little in thickness, and highly glazed by milling. The first postage stamps manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. in 1855 were, as will be subsequently more fully noticed, printed on a special or safety paper then on trial, which contained a chemical ingredient imparting to it a distinctly blue tinge. The use of this paper only continued for a few months, and with this exception the colour of the paper was uniformly white, or what passes for white.

The paper watermarked with a "Crown," introduced with the issue of the one penny 1880, and now employed for most of the values, is of a very much inferior quality, and of a yellowish-white colour; though thicker in substance, it is less tough, and not so highly glazed as before.

CONTROL MARKS.—These marks were impressed with a hand-stamp on the sheets at the left lower and right upper portions of the margins, and consisted of the word **POSTAGE**, surmounted by a crown, with the value of the stamp in figures underneath. Where the watermark of "MARK" was found in the margins, the control mark was impressed immediately over it. Up to the year 1875 the impression was made in blue ink, but subsequently in red, on all the values in this Section, with the exception of those of twopence and under. Since the commencement of the present year—1881—the practice has been discontinued.

These marks were impressed on the sheets before they were issued to the contractors for the printing, and were found useful, not only in checking the sheets on their return to the Department after having been printed and gummed, but in facilitating the supervision by the officer in charge of the printing on the contractors' premises. Stamps of the values of threepence, sixpence, ninepence, tenpence, one shilling, and two shillings, were at one period all printed on paper with the same watermark. When paper for these values was given out by the Department, with directions to print a certain number of sheets with one value and a certain number with other values, the contractors were under obligation to return the proper number of each value, or

to account for any deficiency ; and should this occur it might have proved difficult in the absence of the control mark to determine to which value it should be chargeable. Now that the stamps from one halfpenny upwards, with the exception of the five shillings and higher values are, or soon will be, all printed on the same kind of paper, it is difficult to conceive why the use of this control mark should have been abandoned.

IMPRESSION.—The stamps of all the values except those issued in 1880 and 1881 are printed by ordinary typographic presses worked by hand, but those issued in 1880 and 1881, in which a coarser style of engraving has been adopted, are printed by a more rapid process in presses worked by steam. The colours employed are all more or less fugitive, showing slight differences in tone in the composite colours, but considerable differences in shade.

GUM.—The gum employed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. has always been white and pure, and has never had the effect of producing any discoloration in the paper or the stamps similar to that found in some of those comprised in Section I. It is also remarkable for its excellent adhesive properties, and being tough, does not crack. Further, it is applied very evenly to the sheets, and does not cause the stamps to curl. In this respect the adhesive labels produced by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. are unrivalled, and they may fairly be congratulated on their success in this most important branch of the manufacture.

PERFORATION.—Up to nearly the close of the year 1880 the whole of the stamps in this Section then issued were perforated on the Government premises at Somerset House by the ordinary machines perforating fourteen holes in the space of two centimètres, except as regards those of five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound, which from their size could not be perforated by the same machines as those employed for the other values. These latter, as will be noticed hereafter, are perforated by the machines used for perforating divers fiscal stamps of similar dimensions, in which the needles are so set as to produce fifteen holes in the space of two centimètres.

At the present time the manufacture of the whole of the postage stamps having become centred in the hands of one firm, the perforation of all but the high values of five shillings, ten shillings, and one pound has ceased to be done at Somerset House, the contractors being now charged with it. Messrs. De La Rue and Co. therefore deliver the stamps to the offices of the Inland Revenue Department completely ready for issue. The gauge of the perforation made by the machines employed by the contractors remains the same as before.*

1. THE FOURPENCE.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left, on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines within a double-lined circle. Above and below the circle are curved tablets, with POSTAGE inscribed on the upper, and FOUR PENCE on the lower, both in white letters on a plain solid ground of colour. The whole is enclosed in a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., which is intercepted at the sides by the circle enclosing the head, and at the top and bottom by the curved tablets.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 31st July, 1855.†

DIE I.—The extremities of the curved tablets above and below the circle enclosing the profile of the Queen were square. The spandrels were filled up with a honey-comb pattern, and

* It may have been observed that wherever the stamps were printed in small panes, one and sometimes both of those on the outside of the row were perforated on the outer edge at a distance of about a quarter of an inch from the impression. This was caused by the adjustment of the vertical rows of the perforating needles, necessitated by the stamps being printed in panes, separated vertically from each other by a space of about half-an-inch.

† In many cases it is difficult to fix the precise date of the issue of any particular stamp, as it has frequently made its appearance without being preceded by any official announcement, and the issue has not always taken place simultaneously in London and the country. This was

small St. Andrew's crosses placed in all the four corners of the frame.

PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps divisible into four smaller sheets of sixty each, and was therefore composed of four panes arranged two and two, separated from each other longitudinally by a space of about half-an-inch wide, and by a horizontal space equal to a row of stamps. Each pane consisted of sixty casts, arranged in ten rows of six in each row, and measured $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. Above each pane was printed POSTAGE FOURPENCE in capitals, and on the exterior margins, alongside of each pane, "PRICE—4d. per Label—2s. per Row of Six—£1 per Sheet of Sixty."



Two plates, numbered 1 and 2, were employed during this issue, the first of which received its *imprimatur* on 13th July, 1855, and the second on 29th October, 1855. There is nothing on the impressions taken from these plates to indicate to which of them they respectively belong.

PAPER.—In the early part of the year 1855, as previously mentioned, Messrs. De La Rue and Co. were supplying the Inland Revenue Department with various foreign bill, chancery, common law, and receipt stamps. These stamps were printed on stout machine-made paper, watermarked with various

especially noticeable in the case of the twopence (1840). In the present case the public was informed of the issue by a notice as follows:—

“Inland Revenue, Somerset House,

“24th July, 1855.

“NOTICE is hereby given that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have provided a stamp for denoting the value of 4d. for postage, and that such stamps will be issued to the Public on and after the 31st of this month at the Office of the Distributor of Postage Stamps in this Department and of the Distributor of Sea Policy Stamps, New Bank Buildings, City.

“Further notice will be given of the period when such stamps may be procured at the Offices of the Distributors throughout the country.

“THOMAS KEOGH,

“Secretary.”

devices. Nearly the whole of them were intended to be obliterated with pen and ink, and it had been deemed advisable, in order to guard against any attempt to make a fraudulent use of a stamp a second time, to devise some means by which the removal of the obliterating marks without visible damage to the stamp would be impossible. Various experiments had been tried for the purpose, and among other expedients it was proposed to make use of a safety paper, into which, while in a state of pulp, some chemical ingredient should be introduced which would at once show if any attempt had been made to remove the effacing marks by means of acid, or any like detergent. With this view a small quantity of prussiate of potash was mixed with the pulp during the manufacture. Though this possessed the desired properties, yet it imparted a blue tinge to the paper, generally deepening in tone by time, and varying in intensity according to the degree of its exposure to atmospheric influences. Experience, moreover, showed that it was almost impossible to insure constant uniformity in the distribution and effects of this chemical ingredient, some sheets at times being found deeply coloured, while others, even in the same ream, were nearly white.* These and other objections to the use of this safety paper had not become patent when the postage stamp of fourpence was ordered to be prepared in 1855; it was only natural therefore that similar paper, furnished with a special watermark to distinguish it from that destined for the revenue stamps, should have been adopted for the new value.

The watermark first employed was a small oval buckled garter, the minor axis of the inside ellipse measuring 10 mm. This will be distinguished as "*small garter*." Probably, in consequence of the watermark being too feeble to be readily

* As it is not impossible that these statements may be at variance with some pre-conceived opinions regarding this paper, we may say that they are not grounded on any opinions of our own, but have been communicated to us by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., after referring to the chemist attached to their establishment.

visible in the thick paper, the size of the garter was changed about the month of March in the following year, and a larger one was substituted, the minor axis of the inside oval measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This latter is distinguished as "*middle-sized garter.*"

Some of the objections to the safety paper have been already mentioned; but the use of it as applied to this stamp soon revealed other imperfections. Not only was it too thick, but its hard and highly-glazed surface, presenting an appearance resembling enamel, prevented the ink employed in the printing (which was pure carmine) from penetrating the dry paper sufficiently, and the colour had in consequence a tendency to peel off. About the month of June, 1856, the introduction of the chemical ingredient was abandoned, and a paper thinner in substance, pure white, and not so highly glazed, was substituted. When the substance of the paper was reduced, the bits for producing the watermark of the "*middle-sized garter*" were found unsuitable, and early in the year 1857 new bits were introduced, showing a garter narrower, though somewhat larger, than the last, the exterior of the oval extending to the outside line of the rectangular frame of the stamp, and the minor axis of the inside one measuring $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This watermark is distinguished as "*large garter,*" and continued to be used down to the close of the year 1880.

These watermarks were arranged in panes of sixty, each pane being bounded by a single lined frame. The sheet was adapted to receive four of these panes corresponding to those of the plate. The words POSTAGE STAMPS, in cursive hand, were watermarked in the exterior margins alongside of each pane, and once at the top and bottom of the sheet, as also in the horizontal spaces between the two upper and two lower panes. Of late years the word MARK, in double-lined capitals, was also inserted in watermark immediately before that of POSTAGE STAMPS opposite the lower left and upper right panes, and over this the control mark was impressed.

IMPRESSION.—During the period that the safety paper was employed the colour of the impression was bright carmine.

When white paper was substituted, the watermark of the "middle-sized garter" still remaining in use, the colour of the impression was carmine of a rosy tint, which, after the advent of the "large garter," at the commencement of 1857, gradually assumed a deep rose-pink, and so continued varying only in depth of tone to the end of the issue.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, 15th January, 1862.

DIE II.—The profile of the Queen was retouched, and the line of the circle enclosing it more clearly marked. The curved tablets above and below were shortened, and the shape of the ends of them altered. The spandrels were filled with a wavy reticulated pattern. Solid blocks were inserted in the angles of the frame, and small letters in white introduced into them. The bottom portion of the frame was made solid in place of the linear pattern in the design of the previous issue.



PLATE.—When this issue took place there seems to have been some lack of decision as to the introduction of the plate numbers on the face of the stamps. It will be remembered that the introduction of these numbers in the stamps originated in 1858 with the twopence simultaneously with the extension of the lettering to all the four angles, and that both of these modifications had been extended to the one penny in 1860 or 1861. The fourpence, sixpence, and one shilling values in this Section were first issued, in 1855 and 1856, without letters in any of the angles, but when, in 1861, fresh plates of these values were required, the introduction of the letters was evidently decided upon, though the question as to the insertion of the plate numbers appears to have been left open, or, at any rate, not to have received a solution till the following year. At the close of the year 1861 it was decided to add two new values to the stamps

in this Section—the threepence and ninepence—and these, together with the second issue of the fourpence, sixpence, and one shilling, were issued at various periods in 1862 with letters in the four angles, but none of them, with the exception of the one shilling, bore the number of the plate on the face. In the case of the fourpence, however, a species of substitute seems to have been adopted, as on plate No. 3, with which this issue commenced, and the *imprimatur* on the impression from which is dated 29th November, 1861, a small hair-lined Roman figure I. is found at each extremity of the lower part of the frame, close to the letter blocks. A second plate of this issue, plate No. 4, was approved on the 27th June, 1862, and on this the hair-line Roman figure II. is found along with another mark, which we will now endeavour to explain.

Not only were two plates, of what may be termed the *small letter series*, constructed and authorized for the fourpence, but two plates of the same series were constructed and authorized for each of the other values; viz., the threepence, the sixpence, the ninepence, and the one shilling. In those for the threepence the *imprimaturs* are dated the 19th March and the 25th August, 1862; in those for the fourpence, the 29th November, 1861, and the 27th June, 1862; in those of the sixpence, the 17th October, 1861, and the 15th April, 1862; in those of the ninepence, the 14th November, 1861, and the 8th May, 1862; and in those of the one shilling, the 8th May and the 16th June, 1862. On the second of each of these plates (including the one shilling) a special or distinguishing mark was introduced, consisting, in the case of the threepence, of a small white dot in the solid framing round the profile, immediately under the foliate ornament on each side; and in that of the fourpence, sixpence, ninepence, and one shilling, of a fine white hair-line crossing the exterior angle of each of the letter blocks diagonally. No more plates were employed for the printing of the stamps in this “small letter series,” and these marks ceased to be used when the introduction of the numbers of the plates on the face of the stamps was applied to the whole of those then

current, as was the case when the next issue was brought out.

IMPRESSION.—When this issue commenced a change was made in the colour of the impression, and vermilion-red, varying from light to dark, was substituted for the rose-pink of the previous issue. The colour frequently approached almost to a light tint of brick-red.

Third Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st August, 1865.

DIE III.—The die was re-engraved; the circle enclosing the head was reduced in size, so that the frame, composed of a fanciful design similar to that of the first issue, was only partially interrupted by the circle and the tablets carrying the inscriptions. The tablets were also shortened and rounded at the extremities, and at the two ends of the upper one numerals were inserted in white on a solid ground of colour corresponding with the number of the plate, and enclosed within a small circle marked out by a fine white line. Large letters in white, on solid square blocks of colour, were introduced into the four angles of the stamp, and the spandrels filled in with a wavy reticulated pattern.



PLATE.—The plates numbered 5 and 6, which had been prepared for the preceding issue, were not used, and this issue commenced with plate No. 7, which received its *imprimatur* on the 3rd June, 1865. Plate No. 8 was also brought into use in the same year; plates 9 and 10 in 1866; plates 11 and 12 in 1868; plates 13 and 14 in 1869, the issue closing with the latter.

IMPRESSION.—During the continuance of the issue, especially while plate No. 11 was in use, the colour of the impression was a full and bright vermilion-red, but it gradually degenerated in tone, until plate No. 14 shows a very weak shade of vermilion, approaching to a pale brick-red.

Fourth Issue.

Date of Issue, March, 1876.

DIE IV.—The head of the Queen was slightly changed, and the die received other alterations, more particularly observable in the filling up of the spandrels, and in the point of the bust touching the circle in which it is enclosed. The lettering in the angles was also changed by substituting letters in colour on a plain white ground for the white letters on a coloured ground of the preceding issue. A similar change was also made in the plate numbers.



PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 15, which received its *imprimatur* 10th June, 1874, though the impressions from it were not issued to the public until March, 1876. Plate No. 16 was also authorised 4th August, 1874, and plate 17 on the 30th July, 1877.

In January, 1881, the arrangement of the panes composing the plate underwent a material modification, consequent on the abandonment of the use of the paper watermarked with the garter, and the substitution in its place of the "Crown, 1880" paper. While plate No. 17 was in use, the electro-casts of the two upper panes were brought together so as to form one pane, and the same was done with the two lower ones, so that the plate now consists of two panes only, of 120 stamps in each pane, in ten rows of twelve in each row, the two panes being separated from each other horizontally by a blank space equal to one row of stamps. On the upper and lower margins an ornament is introduced between the sixth and seventh stamps in the first and last horizontal rows, as a guide to show where the pane may be divided into two equal parts so as to form two Post-office sheets of sixty each, of the facial value of one pound. The marginal inscriptions and other legends were also suppressed, as also the number of the plate corresponding

with that on the stamps and the official number. Plate No. 17 is still in use.*

PAPER.—From 1857 down to the close of the year 1880 the paper continued unchanged, being that watermarked with the “large garter.” On the 1st January, 1881, the stamps appeared on paper watermarked with “Crown, 1880,” similar to that then in use for the stamps of twopence, 1880, and under that value, a description of which will be found when we come to treat of the one penny, 1880. This change was doubtless made with a view of avoiding as far as possible the necessity of manufacturing special paper for particular values, as the change was carried out simultaneously with the threepence and sixpence, and has since been applied to the twopence halfpenny. The substitution of this paper necessarily involved the alteration in the arrangement of the panes above referred to.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was a pale orange-red at the commencement of the issue, but while plate No. 15 was still in use it was changed to a pale sage-green of a most ineffective tone. This change of colour appears to have been approved of on the 1st November, 1876, but the issue to the public did not take place till the 1st March following. Plate No. 17 was approved of during the time that this colour was employed, but previously to impressions being taken from it for issue to the public the colour was, on the 1st September, 1880, changed to mouse-brown, and so continues, though varying at times in tone; a defect inherent to all composite colours.†

* This plate was approved so far back as July, 1877, but the fluctuations in the demand for the stamp have been considerable, and have arisen principally from the following causes. From 1855 to 1870 the single letter rate to France was fourpence; from 1862 to 1878 the registration fee on all letters inland as well as foreign was also fourpence. When these rates were changed there was a considerable diminution in the demand for this value, which will now probably again become larger, since the recent alteration in the postal rates to those countries which come within the second class of the Postal Union.

† The proof sheets at Somerset House do not show this colour, being, as will readily be conjectured, printed in the colour current at the time of their approval.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

DIE I.—(1) Paper watermarked with “small garter,” tinted blue more or less deeply. St. Andrew’s crosses in angles. Plates Nos. 1 and 2 not numbered. Perf. 14.

31st July, 1855. Fourpence, carmine (shades).

(2) Paper watermarked with “middle-sized garter,” tinted blue more or less deeply. Perf. 14.

1856. Fourpence, carmine (shades).

(3) Paper watermarked with “middle-sized garter,” white. Perf. 14. 1856. Fourpence, dull pink (shades).

(4) Paper watermarked with “large garter,” white. Perf. 14. 1857. Fourpence, pink (shades).

Second Issue.

DIE II.—Paper watermarked with “large garter,” white. Small letters in angles. Plates Nos. 3 and 4, distinguished by special marks. Perf. 14.

15th January, 1862. Fourpence, vermilion-red (shades from pale to intense).

VARIETY.

Fourpence, vermilion-red, *imperfurate*. Plate No. 4.

Third Issue.

DIE III.—Paper as in preceding issue. Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 7 to 14. Perf. 14.

1st August, 1865. Fourpence, vermilion (pale to dark).

VARIETY.

Fourpence, vermilion, *imperfurate*. Plates Nos. 11 and 12.

Fourth Issue.

DIE IV.—(1) Paper as before. Large coloured letters in angles. Plates Nos. 15 and 16. Perf. 14.

(a) March, 1876. Fourpence, pale vermilion. Plate No. 15.

(b) March, 1877. Fourpence, pale sage-green (shades). Plate Nos. 15 and 16.

(c) 1st September, 1880. Fourpence, mouse-brown. Plate No. 17.

(2) Paper watermarked with “Crown (1880).” Plate No. 17. Perf. 14.

1st January, 1881. Fourpence, mouse-brown (shades).

2. THE SIXPENCE.

TYPE 1.

DESIGN.—The design of the first type of this value consists of a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a circle enclosed in a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{3}{4}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Above and below the circle and within the frame are two straight white tablets, in the upper of which is POSTAGE, and in the lower, the value in full, both in coloured letters. The side framing is of fine vertical lines disposed so as to form a species of scroll, and the spandrels are filled in with a reticulated design. The circle enclosing the profile is about a millimètre smaller in diameter than that of the fourpence, and does not touch the exterior line of the frame.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 21st October, 1856.

DIE I.—The extremities of the two tablets carrying the inscriptions were rounded, and the value in the lower, SIX PENCE, inserted in two separate words. The corners of the frame were ornamented with a floriated design; the spandrels were filled with a reticulated pattern, and rounded at the exterior angles.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps divisible into twelve smaller sheets of twenty each, and was therefore composed of a similar number of panes arranged in four rows of three in each row, separated from each other horizontally by an interval equal to a row of stamps, and vertically by a space of about half an inch wide. Each pane consisted of twenty casts, arranged in five rows of four in each row and measured $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, by $4\frac{3}{4}$ deep. In the horizontal spaces between the panes of the first and second rows was the legend "PRICE—6d. per label—2s. per Row of 4—£1 per Sheet of 40," and the same legend was repeated between

the panes of the third and fourth rows. In the horizontal space between the two middle rows of panes was POSTAGE SIX PENCE, in capitals at the bottom of each of the three upper panes, and repeated again over the top of each of the three lower ones. Although two plates numbered 1 and 2 were prepared for this issue, yet the first only was printed from, the *imprimatur* on the impression from which is dated 29th March, 1856.

PAPER.—The paper specially manufactured for this issue, and that of the one shilling next described, was watermarked with the heraldic emblems of the United Kingdom, the rose, shamrock, and thistle, disposed as follows: A rose in each of the upper corners, and the shamrock and thistle in the other two corners of the space destined to be occupied by the stamp. These watermarks were arranged in panes of twenty, corresponding with the arrangement of the casts on the plate, each pane being enclosed in a single lined frame, and measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide by $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. Twelve of these panes in four rows of three in each row constituted the sheet, which measured about $11\frac{1}{2}$ by 23 inches.

On the side margins of the sheet opposite the exterior panes was the watermark POSTAGE STAMPS, in cursive hand, repeated twice on each side, extending along the sides of two panes, and a similar watermark was placed in each of the three horizontal spaces between the rows of panes.

The sheet on which the *imprimatur* before mentioned was endorsed is of the safety paper tinged with blue, manufactured in a similar manner to that then in use for the fourpence, but watermarked with the "heraldic emblems." In the interval that elapsed between the date of the *imprimatur* and the issue of the stamp to the public, this paper was superseded by one which was pure white, thin, and highly glazed.*

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was dull lilac, varying only in depth of shade.

* Notwithstanding that the *imprimatur* on the impression from plate No. 1 of the one shilling was, as will be noticed hereafter, also endorsed on similar safety paper, tinged with blue, watermarked with the heraldic

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, September, 1862.

DIE II.—The design differed but little from that of the preceding issue. The head of the Queen was retouched, and alterations made in the frame surrounding it. The floriated ornaments in the angles were removed, and square blocks, with small block letters in white on a solid ground of colour, were inserted in place of them. A hyphen between the words **SIX** and **PENCE** in the lower tablet was also introduced. The spandrels, which in the preceding issue had been rounded at the exterior angles, were made square, as were also the ends of the tablets carrying the inscription.



PLATE.—The disposition of the panes remained unaltered. The issue commenced with plate No. 3, the *imprimatur* on the impression from which is dated 17th October, 1861. Plate No. 4 was approved on the 15th April, 1862, and on this plate are found the special marks of the diagonal lines across the letter blocks before referred to* as being applied to the second set of plates of this issue.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression still remained of the dull, ineffective tone of lilac found in the first issue, though varying in depth of shade.

Third Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st April, 1865.

DIE III.—The die was re-engraved, and the framing again altered. The circle enclosing the Queen's head was reduced in size, and some changes carried out in the profile. Large white emblems, and bore date about three months later, yet the most diligent search has failed to discover any specimens of either of these stamps issued to the public on this paper. The only inference is that if any sheets were printed on safety paper save for the official approval of the plate, they must have been destroyed, as also the paper in stock.

* *Vide sup.*, p. 114.

letters, on proportionately large solid coloured blocks, were inserted in the angles of the frame, the sides of which were shortened and rounded off; and in the spaces thus left, small circles were introduced, the two uppermost of which were each



filled in with an eight-rayed star in white, on a solid ground of colour, and the two lower ones with the number of the plate, now introduced for the first time, also in white on a coloured ground. At the point where the circle approaches nearest to the upper and lower tablets there is a minute disc, with a

white dot in its centre. The hyphen between SIX and PENCE was shortened, and made thicker.

PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 5, the impression from which was approved of on the 30th December, 1864. Plate No. 6 was also approved on the 5th December, 1865, but impressions from it do not appear to have found their way into the hands of the public until April, 1867.

PAPER.—Up to the middle of 1867 the paper remained the same as in the preceding issues, but about the month of September of that year it was superseded by the paper watermarked with a "spray of rose," which had been brought into use in the month of March previous for the printing of the tenpence and two shillings issued on the 1st July, 1867. Specimens printed from plate No. 5, watermarked with the "spray of rose," have not been found by us, and it is probable that this plate had ceased to be printed from when the paper with the new watermark was introduced. Impressions, however, from plate No. 6 are found on paper watermarked both with the "heraldic emblems" and with the "spray of rose."

In the paper watermarked with the "spray of rose" no alteration was made in the panes, which were enclosed in a single-lined frame in watermark. In the margins of the sheet the watermark of POSTAGE STAMPS, alongside of the third and sixth panes, and the seventh and tenth, being the two upper right and the two lower left, was replaced by MARK, in double-lined capitals,

followed by a *fac-simile* signature of Sir W. H. Stephenson, then Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue. The control mark was impressed over the watermark of MARK.

By an accident or oversight, while plate No. 5 was in use, some sheets were printed on plain unwatermarked paper, and included in a supply sent to Malta, where English stamps are used for correspondence beyond the limits of the island. The circumstance has gained for this variety the pseudonym of the "Maltese" sixpence.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression still continued to be a dull lilac, and so remained till about the middle of the year 1868, when it assumed a much more decided tone, approaching to violet.

Fourth Issue.

Date of Issue, April, 1869.

DIE IV.—The chief point in which the design of this die differed from that of the preceding issue consisted in the suppression of the hyphen between SIX and PENCE in the lower tablet.

PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 8, the impression from which was approved 23rd January, 1868, as, owing to some imperfections discovered in plate No. 7, rendering it unfit for use, it was destroyed. Plates Nos. 9 and 10 were approved in 1869, but of these the former only was brought into actual use, as before it became necessary to print from the latter a new type had been decided upon, and the second of these plates consequently became useless.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was the brighter tone of violet, the use of which had commenced in 1868, during the preceding issue. The colour frequently assumes a purple tone, and the shades of both tones vary in intensity.

TYPE II.

DESIGN.—The design of Type II consists in the diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, on a ground of fine hori-

zontal lines, enclosed in a white hexagonal frame. The side angles of the frame cut the rectangular line enclosing the entire design, and the upper and lower portions of the frame are carried out to the line at the top and bottom, so as to form the tablets carrying the inscriptions, **POSTAGE** in the upper, and **SIX PENCE** in the lower, in two separate words.

Fifth Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st April, 1872.

DIE I. TYPE II.*—Square letter blocks were placed in the angles, on which were introduced large white letters on a solid ground of colour. The two upper triangular spaces, bounded at the top by the letter block, and on the sides by the line enclosing the design and by the border, were filled up with rosaces and ornaments of a conventional character. A similar design was repeated in the lower triangles, but in place of the rosaces the plate numbers were inserted, in white numerals on a solid coloured ground. The size of the stamp remained the same as in the preceding issue.



* The following is a copy of the notice issued from the General Post Office, announcing the new type :

“CIRCULAR TO POSTMASTERS WHO OBLITERATE STAMPS.

“SIXPENNY POSTAGE STAMPS.

“NEW PATTERN.

“Sixpenny postage stamps differing from the present pattern are about to be issued. A specimen is annexed to this notice for the information of the postmasters concerned.

“Any stocks of the present sixpenny stamps remaining on hand should continue to be sold to the public until they are exhausted.

“*General Post Office,*
“March, 1872.

“**JOHN TILLEY,**
Secretary.”

These notices are now but very seldom issued. A General Post Office circular is sent out weekly to the different Post-offices, and the announcement of the issue of any new values or such like information is contained in it.

PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 11, the impression from which was approved on 5th January, 1872, which with plate No. 12, approved on 22nd April following, were the only ones employed during the continuance of this issue.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was at first a bright chesnut-brown, in which shade of colour it is found on the sheets upon which the *imprimaturs* were endorsed on the 5th January and 22nd April, 1872. In the latter part of the year 1872 the colour was changed to a pale yellow-brown, and, so far as we are aware, stamps issued to the public of the colour first adopted are only found on the earlier sheets printed from plate No. 11. While this plate was still in use the colour was altered to the pale yellow-brown above-mentioned, which remained when plate No. 12 was brought into use. While this latter plate was still being printed from, the colour of the impression underwent a still further change, a greenish-grey being substituted, in April, 1873, for the then current pale yellow-brown. Specimens are consequently found of impressions from plate No. 11 in chesnut-brown and in pale yellow-brown, and from plate No. 12 in pale yellow-brown and greenish-grey.

Sixth Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st April, 1874.

DIE II. TYPE II.—The profile does not appear to have been re-engraved; but the whole of the frame was altered, and the width reduced by half a millimètre. The size of the hexagon was also reduced, so that the side of it nearest to the chignon almost encroaches upon it. The lower part of the frame was also brought nearer to the base of the bust, and the distance between the words *SIX* and *PENCE* in the lower tablet was diminished. The triangular spaces were all filled in with ornamental work, and small circles introduced into the side



angles of the hexagonal frame, in which were inserted the plate numbers in colour on a white ground. The letter blocks were also changed, so as to show coloured letters on a white ground.

PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 13, the impression from which was approved on 1st December, 1872, and this was followed by plate No. 14, approved 25th July, 1873; plate No. 15, approved 15th July, 1874; plate No. 16, approved 10th September, 1875; and plate No. 17, approved 13th December, 1877. While this latter plate was in use at the close of the year 1880, an alteration in the mode of arranging the panes was carried out, similar to that already mentioned as having been effected in the panes of the fourpence. The six upper panes were formed into one, and the six lower ones into another pane of 120 casts each, separated from one another horizontally by an interval equal to a row of stamps. Ornaments are inserted in the upper and lower margins, marking the points where the pane is to be divided into three strips of four stamps wide, each of which makes a Post-office sheet. There are no marginal inscriptions, and the numbers of plate corresponding with that on the stamps, as also the official number, have been suppressed. Plate No. 17 is still in use, (May, 1881); Plate No. 18, approved 5th July, 1880, has not yet been brought into use.

PAPER.—The paper watermarked with the "spray of rose" continued to be used up to the close of the year 1880; but about the end of the year 1876 a trifling alteration was made in the watermark of the margin of the sheets by the suppression of the *fac-simile* signature of Sir W. H. Stephenson, and the substitution of *Postage Stamps*, in cursive hand, in its place.

About the close of the year 1880 the paper was changed to that watermarked with the "Crown 1880," disposed in panes of 120 in each pane, and stamps on the paper thus watermarked were issued to the public on the 1st January, 1881. The use of the control marks was at the same time discontinued.

IMPRESSION.—The issue commenced with plate No. 13, which was approved on 1st December, 1872, before the colour of the impression had been changed from light yellow-brown to greenish-grey; but no stamps were issued in the former colour. Throughout the whole of the issue, continued regularly through plates Nos. 14, 15, 16, and 17, from which latter the stamps at present in use are being printed, the colour of the impression has remained greenish-grey, varying only in depth of tone. The demand for this value has fluctuated much, having diminished considerably of late years, as is shown by the fact that plate No. 17 though approved of in December, 1877, has not long been called into use. As the postage to the Australian Colonies has recently (March, 1880) been fixed at sixpence, an increased demand may naturally be expected.

SYNOPSIS.

TYPE I.

First Issue.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “heraldic emblems,” white. No letters in angles. Plate 1; perf. 14.

21st October, 1856. Six pence, dull lilac (shades).

Second Issue.

DIE II.—Paper as in preceding. Hyphen between **SIX** and **PENCE**. Small white letters in angles. Plates 3 and 4, the latter distinguishable by special marks. Perf. 14.

September, 1862. Six-pence, dull lilac (shades).

Third Issue.

DIE III.—(1) Paper as in preceding. Hyphen between **SIX** and **PENCE**. Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 5 and 6. Perf. 14.

1st April, 1865. Six-pence, dull lilac (shades).

VARIETY.

Six-pence, dull lilac; no watermark. Plate No. 5.

(2) Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 6. Perf. 14.

October, 1867. Six-pence, dull lilac.
1868. Six-pence, bright lilac.

Fourth Issue.

DIE IV.—Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." No hyphen between SIX and PENCE. Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 8 and 9. Perf. 14.

April, 1869. Six pence, purple-lilac (shades).

VARIETY.

Six pence, purple-lilac; *imperfurate*. Plates Nos. 8 and 9.

TYPE II.

Fifth Issue.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 11 and 12. Perf. 14.

(a) 1st April, 1872. Six pence, bright chesnut-brown. Plate No. 11.

(b) June, 1872. Six pence, pale yellow-brown (shades). Plates Nos. 11 and 12.

(c) 1st April, 1878. Six pence, greenish-grey (shades). Plate No. 12.

Sixth Issue.

DIE II.—(1) Paper as in preceding. Large coloured letters in angles. Plates Nos. 13 to 17. Perf. 14.

1st April, 1874. Six pence, greenish-grey (shades).

(2) Paper watermarked with "Crown, 1880." Large coloured letters in angles. Plate No. 17. Perf. 14.

1st January, 1881. Six pence, greenish-grey (shades).

3. THE ONE SHILLING.

DESIGN.—The design is a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a solid upright oval border. In the upper part of this border is POSTAGE, in small white capitals, and in the lower part

ONE SHILLING, in similar characters, the intervals being filled in with white reticulations. The whole is enclosed within a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st November, 1856.

DIE I.—The exterior line of the solid oval border surrounding the profile of the Queen extended beyond the limits of the rectangular-lined frame as well at the sides as at the top and bottom. The spandrels were filled up with a vertical, closely reticulated pattern, detracting greatly from the effectiveness of the stamp.

PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, and was composed of twelve panes of twenty casts in each pane, arranged in the same manner as in the case of the sixpence. Above each of the upper three panes was the legend **POSTAGE ONE SHILLING**, in capitals, and between these panes and the next three panes, "**PRICE—1s. per Label—4 Shillings per Row of 4—1 Pound per Sheet,**" while below each of these latter panes **POSTAGE ONE SHILLING** was again repeated. Between the third and fourth row of panes, "**PRICE—1s. per Label,**" &c., was also repeated under each pane. If, now, the plate were turned upside down, so that the last or lowest panes were at the top of the sheet, the legend **POSTAGE ONE SHILLING** would be found over each of these panes, and under the seventh, eighth, and ninth; the legend therefore appeared twice in the horizontal space between the two middle rows of panes, one set of the legends being up-side down.

The plate and official numbers were introduced at the corners as in the other values.

One plate only, numbered 1, was prepared for this issue, the *imprimatur* on the impression from which is dated 27th June, 1856.

PAPER.—The paper was the same as that employed for the



first issues of the sixpence, being pure white, and watermarked with the heraldic emblems of the United Kingdom. Like as in the case of the sixpence, the impression on which the *imprimatur* was endorsed was on the safety paper tinged with blue; but it does not appear that any stamps were ever issued to the public on this paper, the use of which had been abandoned before the issue actually took place.*

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is green, of a dull, ineffective tone.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, October, 1862.

DIE II.—The profile of the Queen was retouched, the entire frame was re-engraved, and the position of the head within the oval was altered. The reticulated pattern in the spandrels was made fainter and less obtrusive, while the oval border was rendered more prominent. Solid blocks, with small white letters on coloured ground, were added in the four angles, and similar blocks for receiving the numbers of the plate were introduced into the sides of the oval border.



PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 2, the impression from which was approved on the 8th May, 1862. Singularly enough, although this plate bears the number 2, and was in reality the second plate which had been employed in this value, the number on the stamps themselves was 1. Plate No. 3 was approved on the 16th June, 1862, but it does not appear that any issue of impressions from this plate, the stamps on which bear the figure 2, was ever made to the public. These latter stamps bore the diagonal special marks which were at this period introduced into the second plates of the second issue of the fourpence and sixpence, and the second plate of the first issue of the ninepence, and the fact is remarkable as being

* As in the case of the sixpence, we have made diligent search for specimens of this stamp on blue paper, but have been unable to meet with any which were issued to the public. See *sup.*, p. 120 note.

the only instance where these marks were applied on a stamp also bearing on its face the number of the plate.*

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression improved during the continuance of this issue, and some fine dark shades of green are found.

Third Issue.

Date of Issue, February, 1865.

DIE III.—The die was entirely remodelled; the head of the Queen re-engraved; large solid blocks inserted in the angles carrying white letters, and the spandrels filled in with a more effective reticulated pattern. The blocks for the plate numbers remained as in the preceding issue.



PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 4, the stamps now bearing a number corresponding with that of the plate. The impression from plate No. 4 was approved 28th November, 1864; that from plate No. 5 on 28th March, 1866; that from plate No. 6 on 24th February, 1869; and that from plate No. 7 on 30th September, 1872.

PAPER.—The paper first employed was that watermarked with the “heraldic emblems;” but in August, 1867, while plate No. 4 was in use, and before impressions for the use of the public had begun to be taken from plate No. 5, this paper was superseded by that watermarked with a “spray of rose,” which continued to be used throughout the remainder of the issue. Impressions from plate No. 4 are therefore found on both kinds of paper.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression at the commencement of the issue was a full dark green, but shortly after the substitution of the “spray of rose” paper the colour fell away and degenerated into a green of a chalky-blue tone.

PERFORATION.—Specimens printed from plate No. 4 on “spray of rose” paper are to be found imperforate.

* An unperforated copy of this remarkable stamp exists in the collection of Mr. Philbrick.

Fourth Issue.

Date of Issue, September, 1873.

DIE IV.—The head of the Queen was again retouched and the frame reconstructed. The letter blocks in the angles were altered so as to show the letters in colour on a plain white ground, and the plate numbers inserted in small circular white blocks. The pattern in the spandrels and the lettering of the inscriptions were slightly modified, and the exterior frame bounded by a thicker line.



PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 8, impressions from which were approved 30th September, 1872. Plates Nos. 9 and 10 were approved 10th July and 25th November, 1873; plates Nos. 11 and 12 on 23rd April and 30th September, 1874; and plates Nos. 13 and 14 on 23rd April and 20th December, 1875, the latter of which has not yet been brought into use.*

PAPER.—The paper employed through the continuance of impressions from plates Nos. 8 to 13 has remained the same as in the previous issue.†

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression remained of a pale, chalky, blue-green tone during the period that the plates Nos. 9 to 12 were in use. Plate No. 13 was brought into use in 1878, and the impression remained of the same colour until

* The extraordinary demand for this stamp from 1869 to 1876 was due to its having been employed to an enormous extent for the payment of duties on telegraphic messages. When special stamps were issued for this service in 1876, the use of the one shilling value fell off in proportion; and as the postage to China, which for some years was defrayed in a great measure by this value, has been reduced, the demand for the stamp has become still more limited.

† Up to the present time (May, 1881) no alteration has been made in the paper on which this issue is printed, similar to that adopted in the case of the 3d., 4d., and 6d., and which, if made, would necessitate a rearrangement of the panes. It appears probable that a change will be made shortly, either in the paper or in the type itself.

the 1st October, 1880, when it was changed to a composite colour more brown than the light vermilion formerly used for the fourpence, and more vermilion than that in which the two shillings finished its career; it may be designated a light brown-vermilion.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.*

DIE I.—Paper white, watermarked with “heraldic emblems.”
Perf. 14.

1st November, 1856. One shilling, green (shades).

Second Issue.

DIE II.—Paper white, watermarked with “heraldic emblems.”
Small white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 1 and 2, the latter distinguishable by special marks. Perf. 14.

October, 1862. One shilling, dark green, green (shades).

VARIETY.

One Shilling, green, *imperfurate*. Plate No. 2.

Third Issue.

DIE III.—(1) Paper white, watermarked with “heraldic emblems.” Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 4. Perf. 14.
February, 1865. One shilling, dark green (shades).

(2) Paper white, watermarked with “spray of rose.” Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 4 to 7.

August, 1867. One shilling, green, light bluish-green (shades).

VARIETY.

One shilling, green, *imperfurate*. Plate No. 4.

Fourth Issue.

DIE IV.—Paper white, watermarked with “spray of rose.”
Large coloured letters in angles. Plates Nos. 8 to 13. Perf. 14.

(a) September, 1873. One shilling, pale bluish-green (shades).

(b) 1st October, 1880. One shilling, pale brown-vermilion (shades).
Plate No. 13.

* We have not included the impression on blue paper in this list, or in that of the sixpence, because, as before stated, we have not met with any specimens that have passed through the post, but it is possible that such may exist.

4. THE NINEPENCE.*

DESIGN.—The design is a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a circular border composed of nine curves inclosed in a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{3}{4}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres. In the upper part, on a straight tablet, is POSTAGE, and in the lower a similar tablet with NINE PENCE, the letters in both being in colour on a white ground.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 15th January, 1862.

DIE I.—Letter blocks with small white letters on a solid ground of colour were inserted in the die of this stamp from the commencement, this modification having been at the same time made in the second issues of the fourpence and sixpence, and subsequently extended to the one shilling. The spandrels were filled in with a reticulated pattern running horizontally.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, and was composed of twelve panes of twenty casts in each pane, arranged in the same manner as in the two preceding values. Above the middle pane of the first row, and on the exterior margins of the two outside ones, was the legend POSTAGE NINE PENCE; and under each of these panes, in the horizontal space between this and the second row, "PRICE—Ninepence per Label—3 Shillings per Row of 4—15s. per Sheet of 20." In the same space was POSTAGE NINE PENCE above each pane of the second row, and the same arrangement prevailed in the space between the second and

* This stamp was primarily issued for the purpose of prepaying the single rate of postage to India and Australia, but when the rate was raised to tenpence it fell into disuse, though it continued to be sold at the Post-offices till 1877, when it was withdrawn from the list.

third rows. Between the third and fourth rows the legend, "PRICE—Ninepence per Label," &c., was repeated at the foot of each pane in the third row, and at the top of each of those in the fourth row, while at the bottom of the plate, under the middle pane of the last row, was POSTAGE NINE PENCE, which was also repeated on the exterior margins of the outside panes.

The plate and official numbers were introduced at the corners, as in the other values.

Plate No. 1 was not approved, and the issue consequently commenced with plate No. 2, which was approved 14th November, 1861. Plate No. 3 was approved 8th May, 1862, and on the stamps printed from this plate are found the special marks of diagonal lines distinguishing the second plates of the issues then current.

PAPER.—The paper employed was that which was watermarked with the "heraldic emblems," being that then in use for the other values where the plate consisted of twelve panes.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was at the commencement an ochre-brown, but it was subsequently printed in a yellower tint, resembling that termed *bistre* by the French collectors.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st December, 1865.

DIE II.—The profile of the Queen was altered, and the frame changed. Large letter blocks to carry white letters on a coloured ground were placed in the angles. Bracket ornaments were inserted in the spandrels, in the angles of which circular holes were made, each of those in the upper angles being filled in with an eight-rayed star; while the plate numbers were inserted in the lower ones in white figures on coloured ground. The reticulated pattern in the spandrels was disposed vertically instead of horizontally, as in the die of the previous issue.



PLATE.—This issue commenced with plate No. 4, approved on the 27th February, 1865, and although plate No. 5 was approved 24th April, in the following year, it was never brought into use.

PAPER.—The paper first employed was the same as that on which the preceding issue was printed, watermarked with the “heraldic emblems;” but when this was replaced in 1867 by that watermarked with the “spray of rose,” the remainder of the issue was printed on this latter paper. Impressions therefore from plate No. 4 are found with both of these watermarks.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was a clear yellow-brown during the earlier part of the issue, but became somewhat deeper in tone when the last supply was printed.

PERFORATION.—Specimens of this issue are to be found imperforate.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with “heraldic emblems.” Small white letters in angles. Plate No. 1 not used. No plate numbers to plates Nos. 2 and 3, but the latter distinguishable by special marks. Perf. 14.

15th January, 1862. Ninepence, ochre-brown, yellow-brown (shades).

Second Issue.

DIE II.—(1) Paper watermarked with “heraldic emblems.” Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 4. Perf. 14.

1st December, 1865. Ninepence, yellow-brown (shades).

(2) Paper watermarked with “spray of rose.” Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 4. Perf. 14.

1st March, 1869. Ninepence, light yellow-brown (shades).

VARIETY.

Ninepence, light yellow-brown, *imperforate*.

5. THE THREEPENCE.

DESIGN.—The design of this stamp seems to have been suggested by the envelope stamp of the same value which had been issued in 1859, as by turning this latter stamp upside-down the similarity will be at once appreciable. It consists of the diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a solid trilobed border, the lobes being connected at the sides by foliate ornaments, and by a trifoliate one at the top. The whole is inclosed in a rectangular frame measuring $18\frac{3}{4}$ by $22\frac{1}{4}$ millimètres. The spandrels, except where occupied, as hereafter described, and the other portions not occupied by the design, are left white. In the upper part of the border is the inscription THREE PENCE separated by the trifoliate ornament, and in the lower part POSTAGE all in small white block letters.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st May, 1862.

DIE I.—The trilobed border touched the interior line of the frame at the sides and top. In each of the four angles a trefoil of diagonal lines was introduced, in which letters in white on a solid ground of colour were inserted in small white lined circles.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, and was composed of twelve panes, arranged in the same manner as in the preceding values, where the stamps were arranged in a similar number of panes. Above the centre pane of the first row was POSTAGE THREE PENCE, and the same legend was repeated in the space between the second and third rows, above each pane of the third row, and also at the foot of each pane of the second row, but in these latter the legend was upside down, as also when it was again repeated at the foot of the centre pane of the fourth row. In the intervals between the first and second and the third and fourth rows is,

"PRICE—3 pence per Label—1 Shilling per Row of 4—10 Shillings per sheet of 40."

The plate and official numbers are found at the corners of the sheets, as in the preceding values.

Plate No. 1 was not approved of. Plate No. 2 was prepared with a background of a reticulated pattern, and was approved on 17th October, 1861. Impressions taken from the plate were struck off, gummed, and perforated, and are occasionally met with, but they are rare, and were never issued for public use.* The effect was not considered satisfactory; the background was in consequence removed from the casts, and the plate as altered was approved on 19th March, 1862. Plate No. 3 was approved on 25th August following, and on the stamps printed from this plate is found a special mark, before referred to, distinguishing the impressions from the second plate employed in this issue from those taken from the first, and consisting of a small white dot introduced into the solid trilobed border immediately below the foliate ornament on each side. This latter plate was in use for a very short time, and specimens of stamps taken from it are exceedingly rare. Imperforate specimens are also known.

PAPER.—The paper employed was that which was watermarked with the "heraldic emblems," being the same as was then in use for the other values printed from plates composed of twelve panes.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was carmine-pink, generally of a light tone, but sometimes very full and bright.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st March, 1865.

DIE II.—The border, though reduced in size, and made about one millimètre shorter, was rendered more prominent. The profile of the Queen was altered, and in lieu of the trefoils in the angles, solid square blocks to carry large letters in white on

* Copies were sent to the various Post-offices surcharged SPECIMEN. The stock printed was destroyed, save some few sheets, which accounts for the rarity of the stamp not surcharged.

a coloured ground were introduced. The foliate ornaments on the sides of the border were changed, and plate numbers in white on a solid ground of colour in small white circles were inserted immediately above them.

PLATE.—The issue commenced with plate No. 4, which was approved 28th November, 1864, and this was followed by plate No. 5, approved 18th October, 1865; plate No. 6 was approved 8th June, 1868; plate No. 7 on 20th February, 1869; plates Nos. 8 and 9 on 22nd February and 22nd April, 1872; and plate No. 10, with which this issue closed, on 6th December, 1872.



PAPER.—The paper first employed was that watermarked with the “heraldic emblems,” but about the month of August, 1867, while plate No. 4 was still in use, and before the issue of any impressions from plate No. 5, this paper was superseded by that watermarked with a “spray of rose.” Impressions therefore from plate No. 4 are to be found on both kinds of paper.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression did not vary during this issue, except in shades of carmine-pink from light to dark.

PERFORATION.—Specimens of impressions from plate No. 5 watermarked with the “spray of rose” are to be found imperforate.

Third Issue.

Date of Issue, 15th July, 1873.

DIE III.—The border was again reduced in size, and the bust of the Queen within it was reset. Letters in colour on a plain white octagonal ground were substituted in the angles for the white letters on a coloured ground of the previous issue, and the plate numbers were altered in the same manner.



PLATE.—This issue commenced with plate No. 11, which was approved 21st December, 1872. This was

followed by plate No. 12, approved 21st June, 1873. Plate No. 13 proved to be defective, and was never printed from. Plates Nos. 14 and 15 were also approved in 1873; plates Nos. 16 and 17 in 1874; and plates Nos. 18 and 19 in 1875.* Since that period the consumption has rapidly diminished, as plate No. 20, at present in use, was approved 29th November, 1878, and plate No. 21, approved 15th July, 1880, has not yet been called into requisition.

While plate No. 20 was in use, at the close of the year 1880, a change was made in the arrangement of the panes similar to that carried out in the sixpence; the six upper panes were formed into one pane, and the six lower into another. Ornaments were also introduced into the upper and lower margins of the sheets opposite the vertical lines of perforation, between the fourth and fifth and the eighth and ninth stamps in the first and last rows, to facilitate the division of the pane into three equal strips, each forming a Post-office sheet of forty stamps.

PAPER.—The paper employed at the commencement of the issue was the same as that in use at the close of the previous issue, watermarked with a “spray of rose,” and so continued down

* It cannot fail to be remarked, from the number of plates constructed between 1868 and 1874, that the consumption of this stamp was very rapid. It was originally issued exclusively for the payment of foreign postage, especially to Belgium and Switzerland, and it was not till the 1st April, 1865, that it was officially issued or recognized for inland purposes, there being no postage of threepence in the inland rates. By a Treasury Warrant, dated 18th March, 1865 (*London Gazette*, 24th March), the inland letter rates were altered from the 1st April then next, and fixed at one penny for every half-ounce or fraction of half-ounce. The threepenny stamp was consequently admitted to prepay the postage under $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. But when the Telegraphs were transferred to the Post Office, in 1869, the same cause which acted on the rapid consumption of the one shilling stamps operated also on those which represented one-half and one-fourth of a shilling. To this must also be added the reduction of the postage to France from fourpence for a quarter of an ounce to threepence for one-third of an ounce, which took place in 1870, the effect of which may be estimated from the fact that whereas eight plates of the fourpence had been constructed in four years, from 1865 to 1869, only three have been brought into use since.

to the end of the year 1880, when the paper watermarked with "Crown 1880" was substituted in its place. This alteration took place while plate No. 20 was in use, so that specimens of stamps printed from that plate are found with both watermarks.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression has remained unaltered during the continuance of the issue, and is at present carmine-pink, varying in depth of shade.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

DIE I.—Paper watermarked with "heraldic emblems." Small white letters in angles. No plate numbers to plate No. 2, but plate 3 distinguishable by special marks. Perf. 14.

1st May, 1862. Threepence, carmine deep to pale (shades).

VARIETY.

Threepence, pale-carmine, *imperforate*. Plate No. 3.

DIE II.—(1) Paper watermarked with "heraldic emblems." Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 4. Perf. 14.

1st March, 1865. Threepence, carmine deep to pale (shades).

(2) Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Large white letters in angles. Plates Nos. 4 to 10. Perf. 14.

1st October, 1867. Threepence, carmine and pale carmine (shades).

VARIETY.

Threepence, carmine, *imperforate*. Plate 5.

DIE III.—(1) Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Large coloured letters in angles. Plates Nos. 11 and 12, 14 to 20. Perf. 14.

15th July, 1873. Threepence, full carmine to pale (shades).

(2) Paper watermarked with "Crown 1880." Plate No. 20. Perf. 14.

1st January, 1881. Threepence, carmine, and light dull carmine.

6. THE TENPENCE.*

Date of Issue, 1st July, 1867.

DIE.—There is only one die of this value, the design of which consists of the usual diademed profile of Queen Victoria, to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a circle enclosed in a rectangular double-lined frame, measuring 19 by $22\frac{1}{3}$ millimètres. The circle rests upon a straight tablet, on which is inscribed TEN PENCE, and in the upper part is an arched tablet with the inscription POSTAGE, both inscriptions being in coloured letters on a white ground. The spandrels are not filled in, but in the four angles of the frame letter blocks are introduced, and above the two lower blocks are small circles for the reception of the plate numbers. Both the letters and plate numbers are in white on a solid ground of colour.



PLATE.—The entire plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, and was composed of twelve panes arranged in the same manner as in the preceding values, where the stamps were arranged in a similar number of panes. The legends TEN PENCE, and "PRICE—Ten pence per Label—3s. 4d. per Row of 4—16s. 8d. per Sheet of 20" were disposed on the plate in a manner exactly similar to that adopted in the plate of one shilling.

Plate No. 1, approved 22nd March, 1867, was the only one

* This value was called into existence to prepay the postage on Australian letters *via* Marseilles; but when the rate to these colonies was altered in 1870, the demand for it ceased, and it fell into such disuse that in September, 1877, the Post-office withdrew it from the list of those required to be kept at the offices, and it is, in fact, "out of stock." It seems a matter of regret that this should be so, as multiples of the Postal Union rate of twopence-halfpenny would appear now to be very desirable; but the reluctance to reissue the value doubtless arises from the hope that a uniform single rate of twopence will be ultimately established for those countries which fall within the first class of the Postal Union.

used : plate No. 2, approved 30th August, 1867, has never been called into use.

PAPER.—The paper was that watermarked with a “spray of rose,” which was first brought into use with the issue of this stamp and that of two shillings, which appeared at the same time.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was red-brown, varying only in intensity of shade.

PERFORATION.—Specimens are to be found imperforate.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “spray of rose.” Plate No. 1. Perf. 14.

1st July, 1867. Tenpence, red-brown (shades).

VARIETY.

Tenpence, red-brown, *imperforate*.

7. THE TWO SHILLINGS.

Date of Issue, 1st July, 1867.

DESIGN.—There is only one die of this value, the design of which consists of the diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within an upright pointed oval white band, inscribed TWO SHILLINGS above, and POSTAGE below in coloured letters, inclosed in a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres. In the four angles of the rectangular frame are square blocks with white letters on solid coloured ground. In the spandrels on the inner sides of each of the square letter blocks are two circles, those in the two upper spandrels inclosing stars, which are also introduced into the two lower circles by the sides of the lower letter blocks, while in the two upper circles above the lower letter blocks the plate numbers are inserted in white on solid coloured ground.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, and was composed of twelve panes,

arranged in the same manner as in the preceding values, where the stamps were arranged in a similar number of panes. The legends POSTAGE TWO SHILLINGS, and "PRICE—2 Shillings per Label—8 Shillings per Row of 4—2 Pounds per Sheet of 20," were disposed in the same manner as those on the ninepence, with the exception that in the two upper and two lower outside panes POSTAGE TWO SHILLINGS was not introduced.

The impression from plate No. 1 was approved 5th April, 1867; plate No. 2 was spoilt in the making; plate No. 3 was approved 23rd January, 1868, but was never called into requisition, and no stamps have been issued except such as were struck off from plate No. 1.

PAPER.—The paper was that watermarked with the "spray of rose," which was introduced for the first time when this and the preceding value of tenpence were issued.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was a clear blue, varying from dark to light, and so continued up to January, 1880, when it was altered to a light red-brown, very similar to that previously employed for the tenpence, the issue of which had been discontinued in 1877. This change of colour was rendered necessary in order to avoid the anomaly of having two stamps of the same colour current at the same time, the colour of the twopence halfpenny being changed at that period to blue. Its existence, however, in its new colour was of very short duration, as only the first batch was issued, and it was withdrawn from the list of those sold at the Post-office on the 1st October, 1880. Specimens in the later colour have become difficult to obtain.

PERFORATION.—Specimens of this stamp printed in blue are found imperforate.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Large white letters in angles. Plate No. 1. Perf. 14.

(a) 1st July, 1867. Two Shillings, dark blue to light blue (shades).

VARIETY.

Two shillings, light blue, *imperforate*.

(b) 1st January, 1880. Two Shillings, light red-brown.

8. THE FIVE SHILLINGS.

Date of issue, 1st July, 1867.

DIE.—There is one die only for this value, the design of which consists of the diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines within a wide circular border of Greek pattern, with a row of pearls on each side. This circular border is enclosed in a rectangular frame measuring 25 by 29½ millimètres. In the corners are solid letter blocks with letters in white, and on white tablets between the blocks at the top and bottom are the inscriptions **POSTAGE** and **5 SHILLINGS**. The plate number is inserted in the lower part of the circular band in white on a solid disc of colour.



PLATE.—The plate is constructed to admit of printing a sheet of eighty stamps, and is composed of four panes, of twenty casts in each pane. The panes are arranged two and two, a space equal to the width of a stamp separating the panes from each other vertically; while a space equal to a row of stamps separates them from each other horizontally. The casts are arranged on each pane in four rows, of five in each row, the pane measuring 5½ inches long by 5¼ inches in depth. Above and below each pane is **POSTAGE FIVE SHILLINGS** in large capitals; while on the left of each pane is the legend, "**TWENTY 5s. POSTAGE STAMPS £5,**" running from the bottom to the top; and on the right side is the same legend running from the top to the bottom. The usual plate number is above the right upper corner and below the left lower corner of the plate, the official numbers of the plate occupying the other corners.

The issue commenced with plate No. 1, approved 18th April, 1867, and plate No. 2 was approved 5th July of the same year. Plate No. 3 was injured in the construction, and was destroyed. Plate No. 4 was approved 28th November, 1874, but has not

yet been brought into requisition, the stamps at present in use being those struck off from plate No. 2.

PAPER.—The sheet measures about 14 inches wide by 13½ inches deep, and is watermarked with Maltese crosses, arranged in panes to correspond with the number of casts composing the panes of the plate, each pane of twenty watermarks being enclosed in a single-lined frame. At the upper right and left lower corners of the sheet is the watermark MARK in double-lined capitals to denote where the control mark was to be affixed.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is pink, varying only in intensity of shade.

PERFORATION.—The machines used for the stamps of the ordinary size not being adapted to the perforation of those of the size of this stamp, the Inland Revenue Department employed for the purpose the machines worked by hand, used for perforating life policy and other fiscal stamps of a similar size. In these machines the spacing of the needles differs from that in the former, giving a perforation of 15 in two centimètres.

Specimens of impressions from plate No. 1 are to be found imperforate.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Maltese cross." Plates Nos. 1 and 2.
Perf. 15. 1st July, 1867. Five shillings, pink (shades).

VARIETY.

Five shillings, pink, *imperforate*. Plate No. 1.

9. THE TWOPENCE-HALFPENNY.*

Date of Issue, 1st July, 1875.

DESIGN.—There is one die only for this value, the design of which consists in the diademed portrait in profile of Queen

* The immediate cause of the issue of a stamp of this value is to be found in the establishment of the POSTAL UNION and the adhesion of Great Britain to the terms of the treaty.

A Postal Congress, composed of delegates from all the States of Europe, as also from the United States of America and from Egypt, assembled at

Victoria to the left on a ground of fine horizontal lines within an octagonal border, enclosed in a rectangular frame measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres. One of the perpendicular sides of the border bears the inscription TWOPENCE, and the other HALFPENNY; while in the upper part is POSTAGE, and in the lower part $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., all in colour on a white ground. The lettering in the angles is in colour on white blocks, and the plate number, also in



Berne in October, 1874, on the invitation of the German Government. The deliberations of this Congress resulted in the establishment of the "General Postal Union," and a treaty was signed on the 9th October, by which it was stipulated that the arrangements agreed upon should take effect in all the countries except France on the 1st July, 1875; and as regarded this latter country, they should come into operation on the 1st January, 1876.

Under the provisions of this treaty an uniform weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (15 grammes) was fixed as the unit for a single letter rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and post cards were to circulate at half this rate. The rate on newspapers was fixed at 1d. for every 4 oz., and that on books, printed matter, and patterns, at 1d. for every 2 oz.

Another conference was held in Paris in 1878, and in June of that year a treaty was signed, or subsequently adhered to, by all the parties to the former treaty, with the addition of British India, the colonies of France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland, many of the British colonies, Persia, Japan, Liberia, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, &c., the new convention receiving the name of the "Universal Postal Union." By this treaty it was declared that all the consenting nations were to be a "single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence," and under its provisions general rules have been made and uniform rates and weights established, so far as the difference of money and weights in the various countries admitted.

For the countries included in the first class in the Postal Union, which comprises all the States of Europe, the United States of America, Newfoundland, Canada, with the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, Persia, Cyprus, Egypt, the Azores and Madeira, Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands, an uniform rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. (25 centimes) has been adopted for a letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (15 grammes), of 1d. (10 centimes) for a post card and for newspapers of 4 oz., and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (5 centimes) for packets of printed matter, &c., of 2 oz.,

The single rate of postage to and from the countries comprised in the second class has been fixed at 4d. for a letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a post card, and 1d. for packets of printed matter, &c., of 2 oz., and for newspapers of 4 oz.

These alterations in the rates took effect on the 1st April, 1879.

colour, is inserted in the border immediately above the side inscriptions. The vacant spaces in the border and in the various angles are filled in with ornamental tracery.

PLATE.—The entire plate as at first constructed consisted of 192 stamps, divided into two panes of ninety-six stamps in each pane, disposed in eight rows of twelve in each row. Each pane presented, therefore, the facial value of £1, and constituted a Post-office sheet. In the upper margin was the legend "2½d. POSTAGE" twice repeated in large capitals, the official number of the plate being inserted between "2½d." and "POSTAGE," and the plate number between "POSTAGE" and "2½d." in the repeated legend. Similar legends were found on the bottom margin, the official and plate numbers there changing places. In the space between the panes equal to that occupied by one row of stamps was "POSTAGE TWOPENCE HALFPENNY" in large block capitals, extending over the length of ten out of the twelve stamps in the row.

In 1881 the arrangement of the plate was altered consequent on a change in the paper, and is now constructed so as to consist of 240 stamps divided into two panes of one hundred and twenty each, in the same manner as in the case of the other values where the paper is watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Each pane constitutes a Post-office sheet of the facial value of £1 5s. At the same time all the printed legends were suppressed, as also the plate numbers in the margin, both ordinary and official.

PAPER.—When this stamp was first issued in 1875, it was temporarily printed on the paper then in use for the One Penny Inland Revenue stamps, watermarked with an "anchor." As these latter stamps were printed in sheets of 240, arranged in a single pane of twenty rows of twelve in each row, the disposition of the watermarks did not coincide with the plan adopted for the printing of the stamps of twopence halfpenny, the plate for which only covered seventeen rows, including the blank space left between the two panes. Three rows of watermarks were, therefore, necessarily left blank, which will account for the

lower margins of the Post-office sheets issued at this time being found watermarked with the anchor. This provisional state of things lasted till about the month of June, 1876, when a paper specially manufactured for this value was introduced similar in kind to that in use for the other stamps in this Section, but watermarked with an "orb" for each stamp, and was exclusively appropriated to this value. The space occupied by each pane of ninety-six stamps was marked out by a single line. On the right margin of the upper pane, and on the left margin of the lower one, the word MARK in double-lined block capitals, followed by a *fac-simile* signature of Sir W. H. Stephenson, repeated again in the margin opposite the next pane, was watermarked in the paper. The control marks were impressed over the word MARK, as in the other values in this Section where a similar watermark existed, but at the close of the year 1880 the system was abandoned. The sheet measured about $11\frac{1}{4}$ by 18 inches.

In April, 1881, the paper was changed, and that manufactured for the inferior values of one halfpenny, one penny, &c., watermarked with "Crown (1880)," was substituted, which is of inferior quality and less highly glazed than that previously employed. Stamps printed on this paper from plate No. 21 were first issued to the public 8th April, 1881.

IMPRESSION.—The issue commenced with plates Nos. 1 and 2, both of which were approved on the 30th March, 1875. Plate No. 3 was approved on the 10th June following, and it was during the time that this plate was in use that the paper, specially manufactured for this value, was introduced. Stamps consequently are found printed from this plate both on paper watermarked with the "anchor" and on that watermarked with the "orb." In no value now in use, excepting the one halfpenny and the one penny, has the consumption been so rapid as in this. Plates Nos. 4 and 5 were approved of in 1875, in addition to the three already approved in the same year; plates Nos. 6 and 7 in 1876; plates 8, 9, 10, and 11 in 1877; plates 12, 13, and 14 in 1878; plates 15, 16, and 17 in 1879; and plates 18, 19, and 20 in 1880; plate No. 21 is that which is at present in

use, and was first employed when the paper was changed to that watermarked "Crown (1880)."

The colour first adopted was a lilac tint of pink (the *rose-lilacé* of the French philatelists), which continued to be very uniform during the whole period it was in use, varying only in depth of shade. On the 1st January, 1880, while plate No. 17 was in use, the colour was changed to a bright blue, with a view of assimilating it to that in use for the corresponding value in the majority of the countries included in the first class of the Postal Union.

SYNOPSIS.

I.

Paper watermarked with an "anchor." Plates Nos. 1, 2, and 3. Perf. 14.

1st July, 1875. Twopence halfpenny, lilac-pink (shades).

II.

(1) Paper watermarked with "orb." Plates Nos. 3 to 17. Perf. 14.

1st June, 1876. Twopence halfpenny, lilac pink (shades).

(2) Same paper. Plates Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20. Perf. 14.

1st January, 1880. Twopence halfpenny, bright blue (shades).

III.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Plate No. 21. Perf. 14.

8th April, 1880. Twopence halfpenny, bright blue.

10. THE EIGHTPENCE.

Date of Issue, 1st September, 1876.

DESIGN.—There is but one die for this stamp, the design of which consists in the introduction of the conventional type of the head of the Queen into a frame of fresh pattern. The ground work of fine lines is enclosed in a wide double-lined white border, the exterior perpendicular lines of which extend

to the extreme edge of the stamp. The upper and lower portions of the border are curved, and touch the exterior line of the stamp at the top and bottom; in the upper curved part of the border is POSTAGE, and in the lower EIGHT PENCE. The sides of the border are interrupted in the middle by small circles for the insertion of the plate numbers, and plain white square letter blocks are introduced into the angles.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps arranged in four panes of sixty each, as in its multiple value of fourpence, but as in Post-office parlance thirty of these constituted a sheet, a floriated ornament was introduced into the exterior margin of each pane, between the fifth and sixth row of stamps, indicating where the division of the pane into halves was to be made. At the top and bottom of each pane is, "PRICE—Eight pence per Label—4s. per Row of Six—1 Pound per Sheet," and on the exterior margin of each pane is POSTAGE EIGHT PENCE in capitals twice repeated, so that the legend may be opposite to each half pane. Two plates were constructed. No. 1 was approved 7th July, 1876, and No. 2 on 11th September, 1876. The first of these was only called into requisition, as the demand for the stamp was very limited,* and it was withdrawn from the list of those sold at the Post-offices on the 1st October, 1880.

PAPER.—This was the same as that employed for the fourpence, watermarked with "large garter."

IMPRESSION.—The first impressions from plate No. 1 were struck in red-brown, and the *imprimatur* is endorsed on a sheet so printed. It was considered, however, that the similarity in colour with that in use at the same period for the twopence halfpenny would lead to confusion, and the colour was in conse-

* This stamp was originally issued for prepaying the single letter rate to the Australian Colonies *via* Brindisi, which was reduced in 1876, and the demand became subsequently so small that its issue was discontinued altogether in 1880. Only a little over 19,000 sheets were ever printed.

quence altered to chrome-yellow.* Specimens of the stamp in its original colour are to be met with, but they are exceedingly rare.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "large garter." Large coloured letters in angles. Perf. 14. Plate No. 1.

1st September, 1876. Eightpence, red-brown, chrome-yellow.

11. THE TEN SHILLINGS.†

Date of issue, 25th September, 1878.

DESIGN.—There is only one die, the design of which consists of the diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left, on a ground of fine horizontal lines within a solid border, the



sides of which are straight, and the top and bottom curved similarly to the border of the eightpence. On the upper curved border in white block letters is POSTAGE, and on the lower TEN SHILLINGS. There are solid blocks in the angles for the reception of the letters in white, and the plate number in white on solid coloured ground is inserted in the exterior frame immediately below the centre of the lower curved

terior frame immediately below the centre of the lower curved

* The *imprimatur* on plate No. 2, dated 11th September, 1876, is on a sheet printed in chrome-yellow.

† This value, as also that of £1, is not included in the list of stamps issued and sold to the public, not being intended for defraying postage on the transmission of letters, but for the use of country and district postmasters in facilitating the keeping of their accounts with the Head Office. When unpaid or insufficiently stamped letters are transmitted from the Head Office to the distributing offices, these latter are charged by the former with the postage to be collected. Instead of transmitting the money thus received in cash, the distributing office affixes postage stamps to the account sent up to the Head Office representing the amount.

These stamps of ten shillings and one pound are supplied singly by the Inland Revenue Department on application from the postmasters, and are the only postage stamps supplied to them in smaller numbers than constitute a Post-office sheet.

border.* The exterior frame is zigzag, very heavy, and crowded with meaningless ornamental details. The stamp measures $25\frac{1}{4}$ by 30 millimètres.

PLATE.—The entire plate consists of four panes, of twenty stamps in each pane, which consequently presents the facial value of £10. The arrangement of the panes for the formation of the plate is precisely similar to that adopted in the preceding value of five shillings, and the legends are similarly disposed, and are the same *mutatis mutandis*. Plate No. 1, the impression from which was approved 6th August, 1878, is the only one which has been constructed.

PAPER.—The paper is the same as that appropriated to the five shillings of similar dimensions, watermarked with the “Maltese cross.”

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is green-grey.

PERFORATION.—The perforation of this and the next value of One Pound is similar to that of the five shillings.

SYNOPSIS.

Stamp watermarked with “Maltese cross.” Plate No. 1.
Perf. 15.

25th September, 1878. Ten shillings, green-grey.

12. THE ONE POUND.

Date of Issue, 25th September, 1878.

DESIGN.—There is only one die, the design of which consists of the usual diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria, on a ground of fine horizontal lines in an octagon enclosed in an ornamental rectangular frame, measuring $25\frac{1}{4}$ by 30 mm. Above and below the profile are two white tablets, on the upper of which is POSTAGE, and on the lower ONE POUND, both in coloured

* It is rather remarkable that the letters and plate number should be inserted in white on a coloured ground in this and the £1 stamp, when this mode of lettering had ceased to be used for the other values since 1872.

block letters. In the angles are solid blocks for the lettering in white, and in the middle of each side of the rectangular frame are small circles, those at the sides and top being filled in with a cruciform ornament, and that at the bottom with the number of the plate.



PLATE.—The entire plate consists of four panes of twenty stamps in each pane, which consequently presents the facial value of £20. The arrangement of the panes for the formation of the plate is precisely similar to that adopted for the preceding value, and the legends are similar, *mutatis mutandis*. In the disposition of the legends there is, however, a trifling difference. The legend on the left side of each plate, instead of running from bottom to top, as in the preceding value, runs from top to bottom, so that on the left side of each pane the heads of the letters are towards the stamps on the pane.

Plate No. 1, the impression from which was approved 6th August, 1878, is the only one which has been constructed.

PAPER.—The paper is the same as that appropriated to the five shillings, of similar dimensions. Watermarked with the “Maltese cross.”

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is brown-violet.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “Maltese cross.” Plate No. 1. Perf. 15.

25th September, 1878. One pound, brown-violet.

THE ONE PENNY (1880).

Date of Issue, 1st January, 1880.

DESIGN.—There is but one die, the design of which consists of a coarsely-engraved diademed portrait in profile of Queen

Victoria, to the left, on a ground of equally coarse horizontal lines in a rectangular frame, measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.* At the four corners of the frame are square white blocks to receive the letters, which are in colour. The sides of the frame are composed of a chain pattern, with an outer festooned edge, continued also at the top and bottom. Solid tablets are introduced in the upper and lower parts of the frame, on which are respectively inscribed POSTAGE and ONE PENNY in white block letters on a coloured ground. There are no plate numbers on the face of the stamps.†



* On the expiration of the contract with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co. for the manufacture of the line-engraved stamps comprised in Section 1, the authorities, as has been previously mentioned, came to the determination of substituting surface-printed stamps for these four values. One thing, however, was obvious, that in adopting this system of printing for the one penny stamp, the consumption of which is so enormous (between 2 and 3 millions per day), it would not be practicable to manufacture them in the same mode as was adopted by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for the stamps of twopence-halfpenny and upwards, the cost of which was at least double that of the line-engraved stamps. To enable the stamps to be manufactured cheaply by surface printing, whether from steel plates or from plates constructed by the electrotype process, it was necessary that they should be printed by steam, for which purpose a coarser style of description of engraving was indispensable. Unfortunately, so far as the interests of art are concerned, the cheapest possible production was aimed at, and Messrs. De La Rue and Co. having sent in the lowest tender, the manufacture was placed in their hands.

† In this stamp, though the lettering in the angles is retained, the plate numbers are not inserted on the face. In the stamps since issued, not only is the plate number suppressed, but the lettering at the angles also. We have already pointed out the reasons which led to the adoption of the system of lettering, reasons which when brought to the notice of the present authorities they had entirely forgotten, if they ever knew them. In 1839-40 Sir Francis Baring, Sir Rowland Hill, and the authorities at Somerset House, combined together to put all obstacles possible in the way both of forgery and of the fraudulent use of stamps a second time. We have also seen how at subsequent periods other precautions were taken to prevent fraud, while experience shows how admirably they have all succeeded. The authorities however of the present day have knocked away

PLATE.—The entire plate consists of 240 stamps in two panes of one hundred and twenty casts in each pane, arranged in ten rows of twelve in each row, the entire sheet representing therefore the facial value of £1, and constituting a Post-office sheet. Between each pane is a horizontal space equal to a row of stamps. There is no legend on the plate, nor any official or other numbers of the plate introduced, nor are any control marks applied to the sheets, the number of the plate being only inserted in pen and ink in the margins of the *imprimatur* sheets.

Impressions from plate No. 1 were approved 28th October, 1879, and up to 18th June, 1880, thirty-three plates had been approved.

PAPER.—As the plates are composed of two panes of 120 casts in each pane, it was necessary to provide paper specially adapted to this arrangement. A new paper was consequently introduced watermarked with panes of large-sized crowns, measuring about 11 by 11 mm., differing in pattern from those previously employed for the one penny, 1840.

This crown will be distinguished as "Crown 1880." The panes, each of 120 crowns in watermark, are not enclosed in frames, but at each angle are single lines at right angles to each other, about two inches long, marking the space occupied by each pane. The word POSTAGE, in double-lined block letters, is watermarked in the exterior margins of each pane, thus appearing six times on the sheet, which measures 11 by 21½ inches.

The paper is machine-made, and at first was white, though always inferior in quality to that watermarked with the "spray of rose," the "orb," &c., employed for the higher values. It has of late become yellower in tone, thicker, and not so highly finished by milling.

the greater part of these approved safeguards at a blow. A common style of engraving has been introduced, offering a temptation to forgery; and now that the lettering of the stamps and the numbers on them have been done away with, for no other reason than the attendant cost, the sole protection against fraud consists in such as the printing-ink and the effacing marks may afford, as the watermark in the paper is only what may be termed a non-patent protection.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in Venetian red, varying in depth of shade. The colour is a fugitive one, turning grey under the influence of acid, and disappearing entirely if ammonia is applied.

GUM.—The quality and appearance of the gum is the same as in the other values in this Section.

PERFORATION.—This is 14, and up to the close of 1880 the operation was carried out by the perforating machines at Somerset House. Since the commencement of the present year (1881) it is done by the contractors for the printing, who deliver the sheets to the Inland Revenue Department quite ready for issue. The perforation remains the same as before in point of gauge, and this remark, as also those relating to the paper and the gum, is common to all the remaining stamps in this Section.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Perf. 14.

1st January, 1880. One penny, Venetian red (shades).

14. THE ONE HALFPENNY (1880).

Date of Issue, October, 1880.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left, very similar to that on the previous value, on a coarsely-engraved horizontal lined ground, enclosed in a circle. Above the head is a cartouche, on which is POSTAGE in white letters on a solid ground of colour, and below is a similar cartouche with HALFPENNY. To fill up the vacant spaces and give the stamp a rectangular appearance zigzag ornamentations of a very ineffective character are introduced. The stamp measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres. There are no letters on the stamps, nor any plate numbers.



PLATE.—The plate is similarly constructed to that of the one

penny, and consists of the same number of casts, arranged in two panes.

The numbering of the plates on the margins of the *imprimatur* sheets is done by hand with pen and ink, as in the case of the one penny. The impression from plate No. 1 was approved 23rd August, 1880; those from plates Nos. 2 and 3 on the 18th of the same month; and that from plate No. 4 on the 1st December, 1880.

IMPRESSION.—This stamp is printed in green of a rather greyish tendency. The later printings show the grey beginning to predominate more than at first, so that the stamps look washed out and feeble in tone.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Perforated 14.
October, 1880. One halfpenny, green, grey-green.

15. THE THREE HALFPENCE (1880).

Date of Issue, October, 1880.

DESIGN.—The design of this stamp, another of those which superseded the corresponding value of the line-engraved series, consists of a portrait in profile of the Queen to the left, similar to that on the two stamps just described, on a background of coarsely-engraved horizontal lines, enclosed in a pointed upright oval solid frame, on which is inscribed POSTAGE in the upper part, and THREE HALFPENCE in the lower, in small white block letters. The exterior lines of the oval extend to and intercept the sides, while the points of the upper and lower extremities fall into the bordering of the top and bottom. The lettering in the angles is suppressed, and the spandrels are filled in with a design of the poorest and most unmeaning description, the interior lines being denticulated like those in the preceding value. It may safely be said that the halfpenny and three halfpenny



are the least artistic and most unattractive stamps ever produced by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. either for this or any other country. The stamp measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres.

PLATE.—The plate is constructed like that of the one penny 1880, and consists of the same number of casts similarly arranged in two panes. The number of the plate is also endorsed on the sheets by the hand with pen and ink. Plates numbered 1 and 2 were approved of 23rd August, 1880.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is Venetian red of the same tone as that of the one penny.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Perforated 14.

October, 1880. Three halfpence, Venetian red (shades).

16. THE TWOPENCE (1880).

Date of Issue, November, 1880.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a diademed portrait in profile of Queen Victoria to the left on a background of coarsely-engraved horizontal lines, enclosed in a straight-sided frame, the upper and lower portions being curved as in the eightpence (now obsolete) of this Section. The inscription POSTAGE is on a curved solid tablet above the head, and the value, TWO PENCE, on a similar tablet curved upwards below the head, both the inscriptions being in white block letters. The corners of the exterior lines of the rectangular frame are incurved, and the interior lines denticulated. There are no plate numbers nor any letters in the angles. The stamp measures $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres.



PLATE.—The plate is similarly constructed to that of the one penny (1880), and consists of the same number of casts arranged in two panes. The number of the plate is written with pen and ink on the sheets on which the *imprimatur* is endorsed. Plates Nos. 1 and 2 were approved 13th September, 1880.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is carmine-red, rather dull in tone, and difficult to distinguish by gaslight from that of the 1d. and 1½d. The importance of selecting distinct colours for different values where much of the work has to be done by night seems to have been altogether lost sight of.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Perforated 14.
November, 1880. Twopence, carmine-red (shades).

17. THE FIVEPENCE.

Date of Issue, 15th March, 1881.

DESIGN.—The design is the same head of Her Majesty that is found in the four stamps last described, on a groundwork of coarse horizontal lines enclosed in a single lined festooned upright oval which touches the upper and lower tablets, on the former of which is the word **POSTAGE** in small white block letters on a solid ground, and on the latter **FIVE PENCE** in similar letters on a similar ground. On each of the upright sides of the oval are 37 dots following the line of the festoons. There are no letters or plate numbers, and the spandrels are left blank. The stamp measures 18½ by 22½ mm.



PLATE.—The plate is similarly constructed to that of the one penny, and consists of the same number of casts arranged in two panes. There are no legends; but an ornament in the upper and lower margins, opposite the line of perforation between the sixth and seventh rows, indicates where the pane is to be separated into two Post-office sheets of sixty stamps of the facial value of twenty-five shillings.

IMPRESSION.—This is in very dark dull violet, frequently scarcely distinguishable from black.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Crown (1880)." Perforated 14.
Fivepence, dark violet, violet-black.

II.

STAMPED COVERS AND ENVELOPES.

THE next branch of our subject leads us to the consideration of the stamped covers and stamped envelopes issued on the 6th May, 1840, in pursuance of the Treasury Minute of 26th December, 1839. As the die which was at that time ordered to be prepared for the use of the Board of Commissioners of the Inland Revenue was on its completion applied to envelopes, we shall follow up our account of the first issue, commonly called the "Mulready" covers and envelopes, by the examination of all such covers and envelopes as were subsequently manufactured by the Board of Inland Revenue, and stamped with this embossing die, and with those that have since been brought into use.

The subject will therefore be treated in the following order:—

SECTION I. Covers and envelopes commonly called the "Mulready" covers and envelopes.

SECTION II. Envelopes and paper with embossed stamps sold by the Post-office to the public.

SECTION III. Envelopes and paper with embossed stamps struck to order on paper sent in by the public.

SECTION IV. Registration envelopes.

SECTION I.

COVERS AND ENVELOPES

COMMONLY CALLED THE "MULREADY" COVERS AND ENVELOPES.

Date of Issue, 6th May, 1840.

DESIGN.—Among the designs sent in to the Lords of the Treasury in reply to their invitation, was one for the face of a cover and envelope consisting of a pencil sketch by the late William Mulready, R.A., which, after having been submitted to the Council of the Royal Academy, was ultimately selected by "My Lords," and the highest prize awarded to it. The actual design occupied the upper part and a portion of the sides of a space corresponding in size and shape to that of a sheet of paper when folded for address and transmission through the post, and was marked out by a single-lined rectangular frame measuring $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 131 by 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ millimètres.

In the centre of the group of figures, Britannia is represented as dispatching winged messengers to the different quarters of the globe, while the figures on each side of her are emblematical of British commerce and communication with all parts of the world. To her right are East Indians on elephants directing the embarkation of merchandise, Arabs with laden camels, and Chinese. On her left, American Indians negotiating a treaty, and Negroes packing casks of sugar. On the foreground on one side is a youth reading a letter to his mother; on the other side a group eagerly pressing to see the welcome letter. "The whole design," to quote the words of the *London and Westminster Review* of that period, "is like a pen and ink sketch by a distinguished artist, as far removed as possible from the common-



place designs usually employed in analogous cases. And considering the small space, the mode of printing to be employed, and other circumstances necessarily fettering the artist's powers, we think that artists and the public will agree with us that Mr. Mulready has produced the very best work of art consistent with the conditions within which by the nature of the case he was confined."

The design, though eminently artistic, was but ill-adapted to the taste of a mercantile community, and proved to be an eminent failure, drawing down upon the parties responsible for its selection an immense amount of ridicule in the shape of lampoons and caricatures, a result evidently but little apprehended by them when the choice was made.*

PLATES.—The design, after having been engraved by Mr. John Thompson, the eminent wood-engraver, was multiplied by stereo-plates, the same engraved block serving for both the covers and envelopes, as also for the two values of one penny and two-pence, for which latter purposes a portion of the block at the lower part of the frame was removed to leave a space for the insertion of the value in full, which, in the case of the one penny, was filled in with the words POSTAGE ONE PENNY in ornate Italic capitals, or capitals slanting from right to left, while in the twopence the words POSTAGE TWO PENCE were inserted in capitals slanting in the reverse direction, or from left to right.

In addition to the design on the face, at a distance of 3 millimètres from the lower line of the frame, was a tablet of mechanical lathe-work of a reticulated pattern, in which the word POSTAGE was shown in large block letters turned towards the facial design.

* So early as the 12th May, six days only after the issue took place, there is an entry in Sir Rowland Hill's journal to the following effect: "I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides. In departing so widely from the established 'lion and unicorn' nonsense, I fear that we have run counter to settled opinions and prejudices somewhat hastily. I now think it would have been wiser to have followed established custom in all the details of the measure where practicable."—*Life*, vol. i. p. 395.



This tablet measured $77\frac{1}{2}$ by 17 millimètres, and when the cover was folded appeared on the back of the letter. Below this tablet were the index numbers of the plates. In the one penny covers the number was preceded by a Roman capital, and in the envelopes by an Italic capital. In the covers and envelopes of twopence small letters took the place of the capitals. We have found no other letter except A, though it is by no means improbable that other letters were used, as the number printed was very large, in expectation that the covers and envelopes would be employed in far greater proportion than the adhesive stamps.

PAPER.—The paper was of a special character, manufactured by Mr. John Dickinson at Nash Mills, King's Langley, Herts, into the substance of which, during the process of fabrication, threads of various coloured silk were introduced running through the sheets, a species of paper that, from the name of its inventor, has become known among philatelists as "Dickinson paper." * The paper prepared for the covers differed somewhat from that prepared for the envelopes in the disposition of the silk threads. In the former the silk threads were so arranged that in printing the twelve covers on the sheet in three rows, of four in each row, three parallel threads of red silk traversed the cover hori-

* Mr. Dickinson took out a patent in 1830 for a method of uniting face to face two sheets of pulp, in order to produce paper of an extra thickness. "The sheets of paper pulp were given off by two drums, and brought into contact with one another by the pressure of a roller, and thus united were carried forward by the felt over a guide roller and onward to a pair of pressing rollers, whereby the moist surfaces of the pulp were made to adhere firmly, and constitute one thick sheet. This, after passing over the surface of hollow drums heated by steam, became dry and compact." The paper for postal purposes was manufactured by Mr. Dickinson on a similar system, the silk fibres being introduced between the two laminae before they were pressed together. Specimens of this paper were produced and shown to the Commissioners of Post-office inquiry in 1837, when the question before them was the practicability of employing stamped covers for letters conveyed by the twopenny post. On this point we find the following statement in the Ninth Report (vol. xxxviii., part 1): "Your Lordships will perceive, from the evidence of Mr. Pressly, the Secretary of the Board of Stamps and Taxes, that he also entertains a favourable opinion of the proposal, whilst he has at the same time fairly stated such

zontally above the design, and two parallel blue ones below it. In the paper for the envelopes the sheet was traversed by silk threads in sets of one red between two blue, disposed in such a manner as that one set of threads crossed each of the two portions of the lozenge-shaped parallelogram forming the side flaps of the envelope. Although this was the normal disposition of the threads, yet examples may occasionally be met with where one or more of the threads has been accidentally omitted, or their colours transposed, and also where they run vertically instead of horizontally, owing to a sheet having been wrongly cut. These varieties possess but little, if any, interest to collectors, and are adverted to merely to preclude the supposition that their existence is unknown.

IMPRESSION.—The sheets both for the covers and the envelopes measured about 24 inches deep by 36 inches wide, being adapted to receive twelve impressions disposed in three rows of four in each row, the design of the face when printed running parallel to the longer margins of the sheet. In the sheets of covers there was no line of separation between them, but in those of the envelopes the lozenge-shaped form was marked out by single lines. In making up the form from which the sheet was

objections as he conceived might be raised against the adoption of the plan, the first and most important of which is, that the revenue would be liable to be defrauded by the forgery of these stamps.

“With respect to this objection, Mr. Pressly says, ‘It has occurred to me, however, that that might be prevented if the Government manufactured a particular paper for such envelopes. There is a paper which has been produced to the Commissioners of Stamps for another purpose, and it is the best suggestion that occurs to me for the purpose; viz., by the introduction of a silk thread into the paper, which it is difficult to manufacture, and very expensive, and with the vigilance of the Excise would be almost impossible to forge; the silk is woven in the pulp, and it is written on with the greatest facility. The manufacturer is Mr. Dickinson, of the Old Bailey.’”

The report then proceeds: “Mr. Dickinson has fully described the mode of fabricating the particular description of paper, to which Mr. Pressly refers, and we are satisfied that, if the use of this paper was confined exclusively to stamped covers, it would be almost impossible to imitate the paper, or commit any forgery, without detection.”

printed the stereo-plates were not arranged according to their numbers, nor indeed by any order or rule whatever; the combinations of numbers of the stereos, therefore, which appear on the sheets are entirely fortuitous, and it would be useless to attempt to examine them with a view of drawing any inferences from the mode in which they recur.

The preparation of the stereo-plates and the printing were entrusted to Messrs. William Clowes and Sons, of Blackfriars, London, the colour of the impression being black for the covers and envelopes of one penny, and blue for those of twopenee.

There was no legend on the envelopes, but on the end flaps of the covers the following notices and directions were printed in double columns of type in the same colour as the rest of the impression.

RATES OF POSTAGE.—INLAND LETTERS not exceeding half-an-ounce are charged one penny.

Exceeding half-an-ounce, but not exceeding 1 ounce, twopenee.

| | | | | |
|---|----------|---|---|----------------------|
| „ | 1 ounce | „ | „ | 2 ounces, fourpence. |
| „ | 2 ounces | „ | „ | 3 ounces, sixpence. |

And so on, an additional twopenee for every additional ounce. With but few exceptions the weight is limited to 16 ounces. Unstamped letters are charged double postage on delivery. Those insufficiently stamped double the amount of such insufficiency.

COLONIAL LETTERS.—If sent by packet, twelve times; if by private ship eight times the preceding rates.

FOREIGN LETTERS.—The packet rates are too numerous to be enumerated here. The ship rates are the same for foreign as for colonial letters. As regards both foreign and colonial letters there is no limitation as to weight. All sent outwards, with few exceptions, must be prepaid by money or by stamps; and those going by private ship must be marked “Ship Letter.”

It is REQUESTED that all letters may be fully and legibly addressed and posted as early as convenient. Also, that whatever kind of stamp may be used, it may invariably stand above the address, and towards the right-hand side of the letter.

PRICES OF STAMPS.

At a POST OFFICE.—Labels 1d. and 2d. each. Covers 1½d. and 2½d. each.

AT A STAMP DISTRIBUTOR'S as above, or as follows :

Half-ream or 240 Penny Covers £1 2s. 4d. Penny Envelopes £1 1s. 9d.
Quarter-ream or 120 Twopenny Covers £1 1s. 4d. Twopenny Envelopes
£1 1s. 1d.

At the STAMP OFFICES in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh as above, or as follows :

2 reams or 960 Penny Covers £4 7s. Penny Envelopes £4 5s.
1 ream or 480 Twopenny Covers £4 3s. 6d. Twopenny Envelopes
£4 2s. 6d.

Covers may be had at these prices, either in sheets or cut ready for use. Envelopes in sheets only, and consequently not made up. No one unless duly licensed is authorised to SELL postage stamps.

The penny stamp carries half an ounce (inland) ; the twopenny stamp one ounce. For weights EXCEEDING ONE OUNCE use the proper number of labels, either alone or in combination with the stamps of the covers or envelopes.

MONEY.—Coin if enclosed in letters at all should be folded in paper, sealed, and then fastened to the inside of the letter ; but to avoid risk, a money order should be used whenever practicable.

From the above notices it will be seen that the covers were sold separately at the various Post-offices, and by persons authorized to sell stamps, at one farthing above the facial value, or they could be purchased in sheets, but the envelopes could only be had in sheets. In practice, however, these latter were sold by many licensed stationers folded and ready for use at threepence per dozen over their facial value, the Inland Revenue Department allowing a small discount over and above the profit on purchasing by the ream.

The *imprimatur* on the copies of the one penny and twopenny covers registered in the archives at Somerset House, shows that impressions both of the one penny in black and the twopenny in blue were struck in the presence of a Commissioner on the 7th April, 1840, and that both were approved and ordered for use, "with the stereotypes therefrom," on the 27th April. The impressions are struck on "Dickinson" paper, and comprise the design of the front only. There are no legends, nor does the tablet below the front design appear on the sheet. A

like pair, with a lozenge-shaped outline marking the form of the envelope when opened out flat, is also registered, with the *imprimatur* endorsed in similar terms.

FAILURE OF THE EXPERIMENT.—The envelopes met with very little favour at the hands of the public, who were not prepared for the use of them, and regarded them rather as an innovation. The covers were chiefly employed by bankers and by insurance and other public companies, the latter frequently printing their prospectuses on the inside, thus converting them into a medium of publicity. Not a few were used by enterprising stationers as advertising sheets, and sold by them at or under their facial value. The issue must however be regarded as a failure, and so soon as the embossed envelopes were issued the “Mulready” covers and envelopes fell entirely into disuse, and were withheld from circulation. Nearly all the vast stock prepared for issue was subsequently destroyed, and it appears “that a machine had to be constructed for the purpose; the attempt to do the work by fire in close stoves (fear of robbery forbade the use of open ones) having absolutely failed.”*

SYNOPSIS.

A. Form, Cover or Half-sheet.

6th May, 1840. One penny, black.
Twopence, blue, light to very dark shades.

B. Form, Envelope.

6th May, 1840. One penny, black.
Twopence, blue, light to very dark shades.

* *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 395.

SECTION II.

ENVELOPES AND PAPER WITH EMBOSSED STAMPS.

SOLD BY THE POST-OFFICE TO THE PUBLIC.

- (1) THE ONE PENNY ENVELOPE . issued 29th January, 1841.
- (2) THE TWO PENCE " " April, 1841.
- (3) THE ONE PENNY HALF-SHEET . " March, 1844.

Previously to the introduction of the new system, which substituted a charge by weight for that by sheet, such things as envelopes were scarcely known beyond the limits of official departments, and the occasional use of them by those who possessed the privilege of franking. Gum was an article seldom heard of except in connection with pharmacy, for wafers and wax were the recognized means of closing letters so far as that was practicable, and were the regular appliances as well of the commercial desk as of the library table. But when it was permitted to enclose a letter in a cover without incurring the penalty of double postage, the facilities afforded by the use of envelopes and the privacy secured by enclosing correspondence in them soon produced their effects, and envelopes made their way into public favour so rapidly, that stationer after stationer set up workshops for the manufacture of them. Many stationers had patterns of their own, and registered their designs; in short a new trade was created, which gave employment to hundreds of young people of both sexes. At first ornamental adhesive seals and enamelled wafers were commonly used for securing the flaps, but the greatest improvement was the lengthening of the upper flap and the gumming its extremity. From this period

the sealing-wax trade began to suffer most perceptibly, and is possibly the only one which may be said to have been ruined by the introduction of the penny postage.

When it became evident that the "Mulready" envelopes had failed to secure the approval of the public, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Francis Baring, assisted by Sir Rowland Hill, occupied themselves, towards the close of the year 1840, in devising some other kind of envelope which should take their place. It has been previously mentioned that the Lords of the Treasury, by their Minute of 26th December, 1839, had directed the preparation of the necessary stamps for the purpose of being struck on paper which the public might send to the Stamp-office for that purpose. This decision was now modified, and "My Lords" came to the determination of applying the stamp to envelopes to be made from "Dickinson" paper, manufactured in a manner similar to that employed for the "Mulready" covers and envelopes.*

The die which had been ordered to be constructed was the joint work of two artists. The engraving of the head of Her Majesty on a steel die had been entrusted to Mr. William Wyon, and was a reduced copy of the obverse of his City medal, which had also served as a model for the design of the one penny adhesive stamp. The matrix prepared by Mr. Wyon, from which the punches for producing the head on all the embossing dies, both of the one penny and of all the values, have subsequently been constructed, showed the head of Her Majesty with a plain tress of hair only. In the dies for the several values the arrangement of the hair was varied by the addition of pendent curls of different designs.

The die therefore, as it left the hands of Mr. Wyon, consisted of a reproduction of the head on a plain ground, without any pendent curls, which were subsequently added.

* For some years it seems to have been considered that the franking power of an envelope was centred in the embossed stamp, and we have seen letters passed free through the post with an embossed stamp affixed to them that had been cut from an envelope. This practice is now, however, declared to be illegal by Act 33 and 34 Vict., c. 79, s. 19.

Round this solid ground was added a border or framing in mechanical engraving, executed by other hands, the design of which also varied in the several values.

1. THE ONE PENNY.

Date of Issue, 29th January, 1841.

DESIGN.—The design consisted of a diademed bust of Queen Victoria to the left in white relief on a solid oval ground of colour enclosed within an oval border, on the solid ground of which is a reticulated pattern in white relief, so disposed as to show the inscription *POSTAGE ONE PENNY* in sunken block letters. At the base of the bust are the initials of the engraver, *w. w.*, in minute letters in relief, preceded by a numeral denoting the number of the working die. The stamp measures 23 by 27 mm.



DIE I, 1841–1866.—The tress of the back hair of Her Majesty approached near the interior line of the oval frame, and was furnished with a pendent snake-like curl; the reticulated pattern on the frame was $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide.

This die, which we designate Die I. to distinguish it from Die II. constructed in 1866, was the joint work of Mr. William Wyon, who struck the head upon it and engraved the pendent curl, and of Mr. Deacon, then in the employ of the late Mr. Charles Whiting, of Beaufort House, Strand, London, who designed and executed the oval framework.*



1855. An alteration was made in the die in September, 1855, by drilling holes in the network of the lower part of the border for the insertion of the date plugs.

* Although the original or mother die was produced in the manner above mentioned, yet the working dies used in the embossing presses by the Inland Revenue Department were constructed by Mr. Wyon at the

DIE II., 1866, *et seq.*—A new die was constructed in 1866, the head being still struck from that originally engraved by Mr. W. Wyon; but the addition of the pendent curl and the oval framing, with its reticulated ornamentation, was the work of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. This die is readily distinguishable from Die I., not only by the different pattern of the curl, but by the mechanical engraving of the border, which is 3 millimètres wide, and is very poorly executed in comparison with that on Die I. Greater space is given between the back of the head and the interior line of the frame, which is no doubt an improvement. The initials of Mr. Wyon still appeared on the base of the bust; but since the year 1872 they have been omitted, and the index number only retained. Working dies from Die II. seem to have been brought into use about October, 1866; the first index number that has been found by us is 140.



PAPER, 1841 to 1855.—The paper was manufactured specially for the purpose by Mr. Dickinson, and was somewhat similar to that used for the “Mulready” envelopes and covers. Ordinarily two parallel silk threads only are to be found, one blue and the

Mint up to the time of his death, in 1851, and also for some time after by his son, Mr. Leonard Wyon. Consequent on the changes made in the administration of the Mint in 1852, a considerable portion of the work, consisting of the repairs of the working dies and the construction of new ones, was transferred to Mr. Warren De La Rue, F.R.S., engraver to the Board of Inland Revenue; and at present the whole of the work is done by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. under his superintendence.

Each die from the first has been marked with an index number. Those in use at Somerset House are kept under the care of a special officer, who issues them daily to the stampers according to the requirements of the work in hand. These numbers, which are found at the base of the bust, do not, therefore, offer any certain or reliable test as to the date when the impression was struck, as the dies remain in use as long as they continue fit for service, a fact which will be readily appreciated by examining these numbers in connection with the date dies after they were introduced.

other orange-red, and the envelope was so cut from the paper that when it was folded the pair of silk threads crossed the face diagonally in the right upper corner, it being intended that the stamp should be impressed over the threads, though many specimens are found where the stamp is impressed either above or below them. We have not considered these as constituting varieties, as they are simply accidents due to the irregular cutting of the blanks for the envelopes.

A further list of pseudo-varieties might be made by selecting examples where the paper-maker has inserted two blue or two orange threads instead of the bicoloured pair, or where he has added an extra thread and inserted three. Those who are curious in such matters may find these errors fully enumerated in *Le Timbre Poste* for July, 1868, but they do not appear to us to call for more than this passing notice.

The colour of the paper was that known as cream-coloured, and it was glazed on one side only. No change was made in the colour during the whole period that the "Dickinson" paper was in use, except that it gradually became whiter in tone, and it is possibly owing to this that it is almost uniformly described as being white, whereas the colour at the commencement of the issue was full cream-colour. Varieties have been catalogued as being of "pale straw" and "yellow tinted" paper as distinct from the cream-coloured paper, but there is not the slightest foundation for making such varieties, as the additional depth of tone is solely due to adventitious causes, partly arising from variations in the process of the manufacture, and partly from atmospheric influences. These causes acted somewhat capriciously, for envelopes of different tones of colour are found which were not only in circulation at the same time, but were manufactured at the same period, and do not therefore serve to mark any epoch in the history of the envelopes.

1855 *et seq.*—After an experience of fourteen years the authorities determined to abandon the use of the "Dickinson" paper, and to follow the system adopted in the case of other stamps embossed by the Inland Revenue Department, of inserting

in the working dies moveable date plugs, showing when the stamp was struck.* To give full effect to this, powers were obtained from Parliament by the Act 18 and 19 Vict. c. 78, more particularly referred to hereafter, authorising the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to stamp paper brought in by the public for that purpose, under certain regulations to be approved of by the Lords of the Treasury. At the time this change commenced to be carried into effect (September, 1855) there were three sizes of the envelopes then current—the smallest size of 4 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the intermediate one of $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the largest size of $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. White laid paper was selected for the two smaller sizes, and azure wove for the larger size. Although the sale of envelopes made from the plain paper continued for a short time concurrently with the disposal of the remainder of the stock on "Dickinson" paper, yet we do not find that any were issued made from this latter paper stamped with a dated die, except some few copies of the smallest size in the year 1860, which were doubtless remnants of the unstamped blanks cut for this sized envelope remaining in the Office, and were stamped by the Inland Revenue Department more with the object of getting rid of old stock than with a view of puzzling collectors of stamps. These last envelopes were all stamped with the die bearing the index number of 95, and were dated in April and May, 1860.

FORM, 1841 to 1852.—Previously to the envelopes being stamped with the embossing die, it was requisite that they should be cut into shapes or "blanks." The form chiefly current at the period of the introduction of these envelopes was similar to that of the "Mulready," the blanks being cut in a plain lozenge shape, the angle flaps when turned down meeting nearly in a point, and leaving the overlapping margins very narrow. The cutting of the blanks was done by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. on their premises, the "Dickinson" paper being handed to them

* What might be the reason for using these dated dies for Postage Envelopes we are unable to state. A date die impressed on a document is quite a different thing.

for that purpose. The sheets were first of all milled by passing them over rollers to make the outside smooth and glossy, the reams were then cut by a machine into strips of the proper breadth, which were again cut obliquely, so as to form lozenges. Another machine cut out the angular points of folding. The blanks were then sent to Somerset House to receive the embossed stamp, and returned to Messrs. De La Rue and Co. to be folded and made up.

Two sizes were at first issued; viz.,

1. The large size, measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, or 133 by 86 millimètres.

2. The smaller size, measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches, or 119 by 71 millimètres.

In July, 1841, another size was added—

3. The smallest size, measuring 4 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 101 by 63 millimètres.

These were the normal sizes, but many variations are found, due to the irregularity in the folding, which, up to the year 1845, was done entirely by hand. Thus we find the second size varying from 2 to 3 millimètres, more or less, in length and breadth, and the other sizes 1 millimètre, more or less, in length and breadth, from the normal sizes.

As early as the year 1840 Mr. Edwin Hill constructed a model of a machine for folding envelopes, an invention for which he took out a patent. In carrying out the details he was assisted by the advice of Mr. Warren De La Rue, who ultimately purchased the patent, and the first machines were set to work on the premises of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. about the year 1845. By these machines the blanks were folded into envelopes of the several dimensions, all of an uniform size, at the rate of 2,000 per hour. They were afterwards gummed by hand, and made up into packets of twenty-four, after which they were returned to Somerset House. They were sold by the Post-office at the rate of 2s. 3d. per packet, or at 1½d. by single envelope.

Further and important improvements were made by Mr. Warren De La Rue in the envelope folding machine, which

gradually led up to the perfecting of it, as exhibited by him at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Placed in the nave of the building, it was always surrounded by a crowd of visitors interested in watching the ease and rapidity with which it went through its automatic performances. The blanks being supplied to the folding machine, were carried by it, one at a time, into a box where a plunger made four creases in it; two short levers then folded down the two end flaps thus made; a gumming apparatus then came up administering a line of wet gum to each flap edge, two other levers folded down the other two flaps, but only fastening one of them, and finally the envelope was drawn aside by mechanical fingers armed with caoutchouc to make way for another. The whole operation of the folding was completed in one second, thus enabling the machine to turn out 3,600 envelopes per hour, all folded with mechanical exactitude, and securely gummed.

1852 to 1873.—The form of the blanks used in the new folding machine, which not only folded them, but gummed the lower and two side flaps together, differed from the lozenge-shaped blanks hitherto used. The side flaps were cut higher, and shaped, and the upper flap was lengthened and made tongue-shaped. This alteration in the form was now carried out in the blanks prepared for the Inland Revenue Department, but the sizes originally adopted were substantially adhered to. The upper flap was also gummed, and a circular device, consisting of the national heraldic emblems in white relief on a pink ground of a similar shade of colour to that of the postage stamp, was embossed upon it.*

* The gumming of the upper flap, and the impression of the device upon it, so long as it continued to be affixed, was done by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. previously to the blanks being sent to Somerset House to be stamped with the embossed postage stamp. Before being forwarded to Somerset House for this purpose they were sorted over under the inspection of an officer of the Inland Revenue Department, and any that were imperfect or soiled were rigidly rejected and thrown aside. So long as "Dickinson" paper was employed these rejected blanks were destroyed, but when ordinary paper was substituted, those which had a device embossed

The device impressed on the flap was in two sizes; the smaller size, measuring 12 mm. in diameter, was applied to the envelopes of the smallest size; while the larger, measuring 15 mm. in diameter, was used for those of the two larger sizes. Of this latter, two dies, or rather two states of the die, may be noticed varying in this respect; viz., that there is ordinarily an external line of colour nearly a millimètre wide surrounding the seal, while in some instances this external line is wanting, so that the seal is smaller.



For the benefit of those who still adhered to the use of wax, or preferred to have their own device impressed upon the flap, some envelopes were issued ungummed and without the official flap device. We only know of specimens of the two smaller sizes, some of which are found with crests or other devices embossed on the flap; but these flap seals are unofficial, and constitute no real varieties. Specimens also are found in which the official device is in white relief without any colour; this is owing to the same cause as when the embossed stamp itself is in white relief; viz., by two being accidentally brought at the same time under the die charged with colour, the upper one only receiving the colour.

In the year 1860 an envelope of a new size, manufactured of white laid paper, measuring $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ inches, or 133×76 mm., was added to the three then in use.

1873. At the commencement of the year 1873 the form of the envelopes underwent a change. The side flaps were made on the flap were defaced by punching a hole through the centre, and were left on the contractor's hands, who from time to time, as the stock accumulated, made them up into envelopes, and sold them at a cheap rate. The fact is mentioned, as we are aware that some collectors attach a certain importance to these envelopes under the idea that they have some postal significance, but in reality they are nothing but rejected blanks. After the return of the blanks from Somerset House stamped, they were folded by the machines, and made up into packets of 24 in each, as previously mentioned. In practice they are then either returned to Somerset House to be put into stock, or are issued direct to the Postmasters on a warrant from the Inland Revenue Department.

still higher, and the upper flap cut straight to a point; but the device impressed on it was still retained. The smallest sized, ($4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches), was discontinued; but in the month of April, 1873, a new size, ordinarily called the "square size," measuring $4\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches or 120×93 mm., was added, made of white laid paper of a superior quality, thick and highly glazed. The price of the three other sizes was reduced to 2s. 2d. per packet of twenty-four, and that of the square-sized fixed at 2s. 3d. per packet, which was subsequently raised to 2s. 4d.

1874 to 1878. At the close of the year 1874 the large-sized envelope of $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, on azure wove paper, underwent a trifling modification in shape.* The upper flap instead of being cut to a point was rounded off, and has ever since continued to be made in this shape; but no change was made in the other three sizes.

1878 *et seq.*—At the close of the year 1878 the device of the national emblems on the upper flap of the envelope ceased to be affixed, and all envelopes have since been issued without any device whatever stamped on the flap. The sizes now in use are distinguished by the Post-office as follows:—

| | | | |
|----|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| A. | Size measuring | $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches or | 120×93 mm. |
| B. | " | $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ | " 133 \times 85 mm. |
| C. | " | $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ | " 133 \times 76 mm. |
| D. | " | $4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ | " 120 \times 69 mm. |

the A size being on thick white laid paper, the B size on azure wove, and the C and D sizes on medium white laid paper.

IMPRESSION.—The stamping of the blanks at Somerset House was at first performed by ordinary colour-embossing presses driven by steam power, the invention of Sir William Congreve, and improved under the direction of Mr. Edwin Hill. As the blow was given by a falling weight, these presses were found not only to knock the dies to pieces very speedily, but to

* We have seen a specimen of this envelope on azure wove paper, with pointed upper flap and without the flap device, the stamp on which is dated in 1874; but the absence of the flap device is doubtless the result of an accidental omission on the part of the contractors.

produce such a deafening noise that Mr. Edwin Hill, with the assistance of Mr. Ormond Hill, devised the machines with which the work was subsequently carried on, and which were constructed on the "fly and screw" principle. By these machines the embossing in colour is most ingeniously and rapidly effected by a series of automatic operations, each machine as at present constructed being capable of turning out more than 20,000 impressions in an ordinary official day of six hours.

The colour of the impression was pink, which from the first has varied but little except in depth of shade. Occasionally copies are found where the pink is of a yellowish tone, while others are found of a very bright pink. Specimens are also found where the stamp is embossed without colour, but these are simply due to an oversight on the part of the boy whose duty it is to "fan out" the blanks for the stamping machine, two blanks having been accidentally brought under the die together, the upper one of course only receiving the colour. These are not varieties properly speaking, but simple errors in the manufacture, and as such are generally put aside and carefully destroyed, though at times they escape notice and have passed through the post. Hence they have been chronicled in some catalogues as varieties.

SYNOPSIS.

I.

DIE I. Envelopes of "Dickinson" paper with various threads, cream-coloured. Pointed flaps; upper flap not gummed. One penny, pink (shades).*

* Copies of the two larger sizes of these envelopes are occasionally met with surcharged on the face with SPECIMEN in large Roman capitals in red extending 52 mm. in length, which were issued to postmasters as standards for comparison, and to inform them of the issue. The copies of the smaller size, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, are usually stamped with the die bearing the index number 1, while those of the larger size, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, are stamped with the die number 4. One rather remarkable variation of this latter, measuring 128×82 mm., has come under our notice.

29th January, 1841. Two sizes :—

1. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches or 120×69 mm., varying from 116×68 to 120×70 .
2. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches or 133×85 mm., varying from 132×87 to 134×88 .

July 1841.

3. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches or 101×64 mm., varying from 103×65 to 100×62 .

II.

DIE I.—Envelopes of “Dickinson” paper with various threads, cream-coloured. Tongue-shaped upper flaps, gummed, and with seal device. One penny, pink, varying from full to pale.

1851–1852. Three sizes :

1. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
2. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ „
3. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ „

VARIETIES.

(a) The same, but without seal device on upper flap, gummed and un gummed. Two sizes :

1. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
2. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ „

(b) The same, “Dickinson” paper, whiter, upper flap with seal device.

1. April and May, 1860.

Die dated. One size :

- $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

III.

DIE I.—Envelopes of plain paper. Tongue-shaped upper flaps, gummed, and with seal device on flap. Die dated. One penny, pink (shades).

(a) Of cream (nearly white) laid paper.

September, 1855. Two sizes :

1. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
2. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ „

(b) Of similar paper.

1860. One size :

3. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ inches.

(c) Of azure wove paper.

September, 1855. One size :

4. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

IV.

DIE II.—Envelopes of plain paper; tongue-shaped upper flaps, gummed, and with seal device on flap. Die dated. One penny, pink (shades).

(a) Of white laid paper.

July, 1866. Three sizes :

1. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
2. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ „
3. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ „

(b) Of azure wove paper.

July, 1866. One size :

4. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

NOTE.—Die 150 has been met with showing a flaw in the outer margin just above the forehead of the Queen.

V.

DIE II.—Envelopes of plain paper; straight-cut upper flaps, gummed, and with seal device on flap. Die dated. One penny, pink (shades).

(a) Of white laid paper.

March, 1873. Two sizes :

1. $4\frac{3}{8} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
2. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ „

(b) Of thick white laid paper.

April, 1873. One size :

3. $4\frac{3}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

(c) Of azure wove paper.

March, 1873. One size :

4. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

VARIETY. (ACCIDENTAL.)

Of azure wove paper, September, 1874. No seal device on flap.

- $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

(d) Of azure wove paper, end of 1874. Upper flap rounded.

5. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

VI.

DIE II.—Envelopes of plain paper; straight-cut upper flaps, gummed, but without seal device on flap. Die dated. One penny, pink (shades).

(a) Of white laid paper.

November, 1878. Two sizes :

1. $4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
2. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ „

(b) Of thick white laid paper.

3. $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

(c) Of azure wove paper, upper flap rounded.

4. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

2. THE TWOPENCE.

Date of Issue, April, 1841.

DESIGN.—There is but one die for this value from which the several working dies have been constructed. The design is similar to that of the one penny, being of the same size and differing only in details. The head of the Queen is furnished with a pendent curl of a similar form, but the frame is varied. The inscription **POSTAGE TWO PENCE** instead of being over the head of the Queen, as in the one penny, is below.



The initials **w. w.** on the base of the bust, with a full stop after each letter, are sunk, but the numeral denoting the number of the working die which precedes them is in relief.

The die, like that of the one penny, was the joint work of Mr. Wyon and Mr. Deacon.

PAPER.—“Dickinson” paper was employed, exactly similar to that made use of in the first issue of the one penny, and the observations made as to variation in its colour apply equally to this.

FORM.—The envelope was cut in the same form as the large

size of the first issue of the one penny, measuring in like manner $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, or 133×86 millimètres. Similar variations from the normal size are found as in the one penny, but no other size was ever made for sale to the public. The envelopes were made up in packets of twenty-four, and sold at 4s. 3d. per packet, or singly at $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. each.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression was dark blue; a lighter shade, however, was subsequently employed.*

The use of the envelope of this value appears to have been very limited. No issue beyond the first was ever made, and the sale of it by the Post-office was only continued so long as the stock on hand lasted. In 1855 the dies were furnished with date plugs, and employed for stamping paper and envelopes brought to the Stamp Office for that purpose by the public.

SYNOPSIS.

Envelopes of "Dickinson" paper with various threads, cream-coloured. Hand-made with pointed flaps, upper flap not gummed. Twopence, blue, dark and light.

April, 1841. One size :

$5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches or 133×86 mm., varying from 132×88 to 134×85 .

3. ONE PENNY HALF-SHEETS.

From a design left by Sir Rowland Hill it would appear that some idea existed of supplying the place of the "Mulready" cover by a similar half-sheet, which was most probably intended to bear an embossed stamp of one penny. The design in question consists of a half-sheet of plain azure laid stout paper, measuring $8\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, on which is marked out a space for the address, measuring $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; above, are three marks in pencil denoting where the silk threads are to pass, and there are two similar marks below the address-space. On this address-space

* Copies surcharged with SPECIMEN in red similar to that on the one penny are occasionally met with.

at the foot is POSTAGE, in large single-lined letters in pencil, and in Sir Rowland Hill's handwriting the following memorandum—
 "Might, I think, be reduced in width to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. March 3, 41."

Nothing appears however to have been done till March, 1844, when, in consequence of representations made by many mercantile firms and others that a stamped cover or half-sheet of letter paper would be of public utility, the Lords of the Treasury ordered an experimental issue to be made. These half-sheets were of two kinds, the one of cream-coloured, stout, unglazed paper measuring $9 \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the stamp on which was impressed about $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the left side, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top, measuring to the centre of the stamp, which was the same as that employed for the envelopes, and the other of azure paper, measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the stamp on which was impressed about 4 inches from the left side and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top, measured in a similar manner. The paper in both cases was wove "Dickinson" paper, two silk threads, one blue and the other orange-red, at a distance of from 6 to 8 mm. apart, traversing the half-sheet horizontally immediately above or under the stamp. The stamp was impressed in such a position that when the half-sheet was doubled in the form of a sheet of note-paper, and then folded in three, the stamp was in the right upper corner; but its position was such that it was impossible to use the half-sheet as a cover, and to observe at the same time the directions of the Post-office, that the stamp should appear in the right upper corner. Occasionally they were used as wrappers for newspapers, but they do not appear to have ever been extensively employed in any capacity, and the favour they met with at the hands of the public was not such as to induce the authorities to make any further issue. Unused copies in good condition are seldom to be found, and are of considerable rarity. Copies surcharged "SPECIMEN" in red, similar to the envelopes already described, are also met with in some of the large collections, but they are rare, as the experiment was probably confined to some of the principal towns only.

It would appear that about the end of 1859 or early in 1860 the idea of making a further issue was mooted, and one or two copies were produced in January of that year, on bluish wove "Dickinson" paper, stamped with a dated die, No. 97, of the first type. These however are extremely rare: the specimen from which we take our description bears the date on the die of 17th January, 1860, and is stated by Mr. Pearson Hill to be in his opinion "*almost unique*."

SYNOPSIS.

March, 1844. Half-sheet of "Dickinson" paper with embossed envelope stamp of one penny impressed in pink.

One penny, on cream-coloured paper, $9 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

„ on azure wove paper, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

January, 1860. Similar to the above, but die dated.

One penny, on azure wove paper, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

SECTION III.

ENVELOPES AND PAPER WITH EMBOSSED STAMPS.

STRUCK TO ORDER ON PAPER SENT IN BY THE PUBLIC.

WHEN it was determined to abandon the further use of "Dickinson" paper for the stamped envelopes, the admission of the public to furnish their own paper to be stamped formed part of the contemplated alteration. Accordingly a clause was introduced into the Act 18 and 19 Vic., c. 78, empowering the Commissioners of Inland Revenue "under such regulations as the Lords of the Treasury might from time to time make or sanction in this behalf, to stamp paper which any person may send to the said Commissioners for the purpose of being stamped for covers or envelopes of letters, with stamps provided for denoting the several rates of postage, on payment of the amount of the stamps required to be impressed on such paper, and in cases where such amount shall not exceed £10, upon payment in addition thereto of such fee as the said Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may direct or authorize to be taken in such cases."

At the time of the passing of the above-named Act, in 1855, the only adhesive stamps current were the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., embossing dies of all of which existed except of the fourpence. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue therefore ordered an embossing die of this latter value to be prepared. At the same time the existing dies of one penny and twopence were fitted with moveable date plugs, as were also those of sixpence and one shilling, which had been previously employed for embossing the adhesive stamps issued by the Inland Revenue Department in 1847 and 1848.

The following notice to the public was then issued :

Inland Revenue, Somerset House,
Oct, 8th, 1855.

The Board of Inland Revenue have, in conformity with the provisions of the 4th Section of the 18 and 19 Vict. c. 78, provided the necessary apparatus for impressing with Postage Stamps paper sent in by the public for covers or envelopes of letters.

Notice is hereby given that the Board are now prepared to receive paper to be delivered at the Head Office in Somerset House, London, for the purpose of being impressed with stamps for denoting the several duties on postage, subject to the following regulations ; namely,

When the amount of the stamps required by any person shall not exceed £10, a fee of 1s. will be charged, in addition to the duty, if paper of one size only be sent in ; and if more than one size be sent in, then a fee of 1s. for each size.

On the warrants hereinafter mentioned no fee will be payable, but the sizes of the paper will be restricted as follows :

When the amount exceeds £10, and is under £20, paper of one size only will be received. If the amount exceeds £20, and is under £30, two sizes of paper only will be received ; £30 and under £40, three sizes of paper ; £40 and under £50, four sizes of paper ; and not more than four sizes of paper will be allowed to be included in any one warrant, of however high an amount.

No folded envelope can be stamped, and therefore paper, whether intended for envelopes or for letters, must be sent in unfolded, and every distinct form of envelope or paper must be marked so as to indicate the place on which the stamp is to be impressed, in order that it may appear in the proper position, according to the rules of the Post-office, when the envelope or letter is folded and made up.

No coloured paper can be received for stamping, nor any paper of such thinness as not to bear the impression of the dies.

Envelopes provided by this Office, with the proper stamps thereto, will be substituted for any of those sent in which may be spoilt in the operation of stamping.

It is to be borne in mind that licensed vendors only are authorised to sell postage stamps impressed as above mentioned, or any other.

By order of the Board,

THOMAS KEOGH, *Secretary.*

Towards the close of the year 1855 a small sheet was issued by the General Post-office to the Postmasters, on which impressions of the three embossed stamps of fourpence, sixpence, and one shilling were struck, each surcharged in black with SPECIMEN, and underneath the stamps was the following legend :

“Embossed postage stamps to be struck on

“PAPER AND ENVELOPES.

“26th November, 1855.”

The dates in the dies show that the stamps were struck on these sheets in the early part of the month of December, 1855.

1. THE TWOPENCE.

DESIGN.—No alteration was made in the die, which had hitherto served for the impression of the envelopes on “Dickinson” paper, except that the date plugs were inserted by drilling three holes in the upper part of the border. The same die numbered 1, followed by the initials w w. in sunken letters, and a full stop after the last w, also sunk, continued to be used for some years, until this stamp was called into more active use for stamping the provisional issue of registration envelopes in 1877.



IMPRESSION.—This stamp has always been struck in light Prussian blue.

Half-sheets of laid letter paper, impressed with this stamp bearing the date 1861, are in existence, and probably other values exist also, on similar half-sheets. The fact is only mentioned to show that the Inland Revenue Department were ready to affix the embossed stamps either on envelopes or on sheets of paper for letters or wrappers.

2. THE FOURPENCE.

DESIGN.—This stamp much resembles a coin in its general appearance. The profile of the Queen to the left appears in

relief on a solid circular ground of colour, bounded by a single line, with a small beaded inner circle. On this ground, in the upper part, following the contour of the circle, is the inscription **POSTAGE FOUR PENCE** in block letters embossed in white relief; and in the lower part is a reticulated ornamental band, pierced with three holes to receive the date plugs. The initials **w.w.** appear on the base of the bust with a full stop between them, and there are also full stops on each side of the numeral, which precedes the initials.



The die was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., who designed and executed the framework of the border, and added the curl attached to the head, which was that of the die engraved by Mr. Wyon.

IMPRESSION.—This value has always been struck in vermilion, ordinarily of a full tone of colour, but at times varying to an orange-vermilion of lighter tone.

Dies Nos. 1 and 2 appear to be the only ones which have been employed up to the present time.

3. THE SIXPENOE.

DESIGN.—The design of this stamp is the same as was employed for stamping the adhesive embossed stamps. That first made use of is numbered 2, and on being closely compared with No. 1, employed for stamping the adhesives, shows some slight points of difference, especially at the base of the bust. The insertion of the date plugs was effected by drilling three holes in the die, one of which is immediately below the bust, and the two others in the framework on either side.



IMPRESSION.—The impression is in violet, which was at first

of a full deep tone, but afterwards became lighter, and is now nearly mauve.

4. THE ONE SHILLING.

DESIGN.—This die, like that of the sixpence, is the same as that employed for stamping the embossed adhesives of corresponding value, and of which we found Nos. 1 and 2 to have been used for the purpose. The date plugs were inserted in holes made in the solid octagonal ground, thus greatly disfiguring the general appearance of the stamp. Die No. 3, appears to be the first which was used for stamping envelopes and paper, though die No. 2 is found used in 1873 for stamping



telegraph forms.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in green, and has not undergone any noticeable variations, though, as every collector will fully understand, there are light and dark shades to be found of this value, as is the case with every colour which has to be compounded on each occasion of printing off an order.*

5. THE THREEPENCE.

Date of Issue, May, 1859.

The preparation of the embossing die of this value, and the issue of paper stamped with it, preceded the issue of the adhesive stamp of corresponding value by a period of nearly three years. It was prepared expressly at the instance of commercial firms requiring wrappers for newspapers and printed matter despatched to the colonies under the then existing high rates of postage.

* Those differences in shade, which are only due to accidental variations in the compounding of the colours, without serving to mark any epoch in the history of the issue or any change of process in the printing, have not been specially mentioned. The fact is recorded that those who care to collect such "varieties" may be aware of their existence.

DESIGN.—The embossed profile of the Queen, to the left, appears on a solid trilobed ground of colour, enclosed in a similarly shaped border filled with a reticulated pattern, so arranged as to show POSTAGE on the upper lobe, and THREE PENCE on the two lower lobes in coloured fancy capitals. At the points where the lobes meet, the date plugs are inserted. The design doubtless served as a model for that of the adhesive stamp subsequently issued, so far as the shape is concerned, which will be more readily recognized on turning the stamp upside down. At the base of the bust are the initials w. w., and the figure 1. in relief, each being followed by a full stop.



The die was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., who added a pendent curl to the head struck from Mr. Wyon's die, and designed and executed the framing.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in deep carmine. Copies surcharged in black with the word SPECIMEN are found with the date of 27th May, 1859. These were issued by the Post Office to the various Postmasters on small sheets, on which appears the legend :

“ Embossed postage stamp to be struck on

“ PAPER AND ENVELOPES.

“ May, 1859.”

From official returns it appears that, up to the 31st March, 1860, 101,554 copies of the threepenny embossed stamp were struck, while for the entire year, from the 1st April, 1859, up to 31st March, 1860, the number of twopenny embossed stamps was only 44,774 ; of the fourpenny, 20,143 ; of the sixpenny, 2,279 ; and of the 1s., 10,615 ; the number of the threepenny in 10 months thus exceeding that of all the other values during a period of 12 months.

6. THE THREE HALFPENCE.

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.

The die for this issue was prepared and specimen copies struck from it in April, 1860, when the issue of an adhesive stamp of similar value was contemplated. As, however, the issue of this latter did not take place till 1st October, 1870, the embossed stamp was not brought into use until the same time.

DESIGN.—The design bears a cognate resemblance to the adhesive stamp of similar value. The profile of the Queen, to the left, is upon a solid curvilinear triangular ground of colour, surrounded by a pearled border, and enclosed in a similarly shaped frame. On cartouches within this frame are the inscriptions; on the upper side opposite the apex is THREE, on the left side POSTAGE, and on the right side HALFPENCE, the rest of the frame being filled in with a reticulated engine-turned pattern, in which at each of the angles are inserted the date plugs. The inscriptions, &c., are embossed in white on a solid ground of colour.



On the base of the bust are the initials w w, preceded by the figure 1. In our illustration the engraver has omitted the pearled border.

The die was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue, who designed and executed the framing, and added a pendent curl to the head, as struck from Mr. Wyon's die.

IMPRESSION.—The colour selected in 1860 was a rose-pink, and when the stamp was issued to the public in 1870 it was adhered to; but in 1874 it was changed to a brown of a warm tone, which is still in use for this value.

REMARKS.—This stamp is but rarely seen in use, and does not appear to have been applied to much practical purpose except as an addition to the stock of collectors.

7. THE TWOPENCE-HALFPENNY.

Date of Issue, December, 1876.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a profile of the Queen to the left, embossed on a solid pointed upright oval ground of colour, surrounded by a pearled border, and enclosed in a similarly shaped frame with a scalloped exterior edge. The ground of the frame is in colour, with a reticular engine-turned design embossed upon it in white, on which is the inscription, in sunken block letters in colour, POSTAGE TWO PENCE HALFPENNY, round the head. In the frame below the bust are inserted the date plugs.



There are no initials on the base of the bust. The figure 1 may be detected, but is scarcely visible on the majority of specimens.

The die was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., who designed and executed the frame, and added a pendent curl to the head struck from Mr. Wyon's die.

IMPRESSION.—The colour selected was puce verging on lilac, somewhat fuller in shade than that employed originally for the adhesive stamp of similar value.

REMARKS.—Like the three halfpence, this value is but seldom seen in use.

In the year 1862 the Inland Revenue Department, which professed to exclude coloured paper from the privilege of being stamped, permitted tinted paper to pass. Not a few changes could be rung out of the various shades of straw, pink, lilac, blue, and sea-green; but additional varieties were made, mainly for the use and behoof of collectors, by employing wove, laid, and *batonné* paper. Since the year 1877 the Inland Revenue Department has refused to admit tinted paper to be stamped,

and requires that it should be either white or ordinary azure, and of good substance.

The Department includes in the form of the warrant not only stamps of the values of one penny, three-halfpence, twopence, twopence-halfpenny, threepence, fourpence, sixpence, and one shilling, for which dies have been prepared; but also eightpence, ninepence, and tenpence, for the two former of which they do not possess dies, and for the latter have never employed the die made for the embossed adhesive 10d. stamp. To supply these values, they impress two of the existing values on the paper; thus they ordinarily form the eightpence by two dies of fourpence, the ninepence by the threepence and sixpence, and the tenpence by the fourpence and sixpence, the higher value when it exists being stamped first, and the lower value to the left of it. The door once opened to embossing two stamps side by side was not allowed to be shut, and as the Department offered no objection to impressing a second stamp on paper which had already been once stamped, provided that the fee charged for changing the die on all orders for less than £10 was paid, stamp-dealers availed themselves largely of the opportunities thus offered, and permutations and combinations of all the dies have been made, of no conceivable interest or utility except to swell the size and expense of collections without adding one iota to their real interest. That such envelopes may represent a postal rate is not to be denied, but that one in a thousand has ever been employed legitimately for prepaying postage is more than problematical, and they are hardly worthy of a place in a collection except to show how far folly can go. We give a list of those of which the existence is known. With regard to the values above one shilling, we have not seen them in combination with the more recently issued $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and those in combination with other values are invariably affixed before the smaller value, leading to the presumption that they were struck on paper already stamped with the smaller value, and this is very probable, as these combinations are emphatically what the dealers call "heavy stock."

SYNOPSIS OF COMBINED VALUES.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Twopence | 1d. and 1d. |
| Twopence-halfpenny | 1d. „ 1½d. |
| Threepence | 2d. „ 1d. |
| Threepence-halfpenny | 2½d. „ 1d. |
| „ „ | 1½d. „ 2d. |
| „ „ | 2d. „ 1½d. |
| Fourpence-halfpenny | 2½d. „ 2d. |
| Fivepence | 3d. „ 2d. |
| „ | 2d. „ 3d. |
| „ | 1d. „ 4d. |
| „ | 4d. „ 1d. |
| Fivepence-halfpenny | 4d. „ 1½d. |
| Sixpence-halfpenny | 4d. „ 2½d. |
| Sevenpence | 6d. „ 1d. |
| „ | 1d. „ 6d. |
| „ | 4d. „ 3d. |
| Sevenpence-halfpenny | 6d. „ 1½d. |
| „ „ | 1½d. „ 6d. |
| Eightpence | 6d. „ 2d. |
| „ | 4d. „ 4d. |
| Eightpence-halfpenny | 6d. „ 2½d. |
| Ninepence | 6d. „ 3d. |
| „ | 3d. „ 6d. |
| Tenpence | 6d. „ 4d. |
| „ | 4d. „ 6d. |
| Thirteenpence | 1s. „ 1d. |
| Fourteenpence | 1s. „ 2d. |
| Fifteenpence | 1s. „ 3d. |
| Sixteenpence | 1s. „ 4d. |
| Eighteenpence | 1s. „ 6d. |
| Two shillings | 1s. „ 1s. |

According to the regulations of the stamping department at Somerset House now in force, if in the process of embossing a blank is accidentally spoilt by an imperfect stamp being affixed, or through any other mishap, the blank is returned to the owner with the other stamps, with a notice printed on the face of it that on a fresh warrant being sent in, the value will be made good either in penny stamps or in any way the owner desires. Where the stamp has been imperfectly struck it is surcharged in black with a hand stamp "TO BE TRANSFERRED."

Specimens of these spoilt stamps are frequently seen in collections of postal curiosities.

STAMPS EMBOSSED FOR PRIVATE FIRMS.

In addition to impressing the ordinary dies on paper supplied by the public, the Inland Revenue Department will impress the official stamp, surrounded by a circular band bearing the name and address of any private firm, without making any extra charge beyond the cost of engraving the die. Nor do the authorities object to private firms adding a similar band themselves to stamps already struck by the Inland Revenue Department, provided that nothing more than the name and address of the firm with its trade or profession appear upon the band.

In those which are struck at Somerset House, the colour of the ring is identical with that of the stamp, the special die being so constructed as to permit of its being used in the embossing machine at the same time as the official stamp, and the whole is effected in one operation.

In the case of those which are of private manufacture, the ring is impressed round the official stamp already embossed on the paper, and ordinarily in a different colour from that of the stamp, and even when it is evidently intended to be similar, it fails to be so. In all those which we have noticed the pattern of the ring differs from that adopted by the Inland Revenue Department.

Many firms, chiefly publishers, news agents, and India or Colonial agents, have taken advantage of the privilege, which acts as a safeguard in insuring the stamps being used in their business, while it also serves as a species of advertisement by putting their names conspicuously before the public.

To stamp collectors these stamps offer but little interest except as showing what the authorities do, or permit to be done; it would not therefore serve any useful purpose to give a list of the firms who have availed themselves of this privilege, and we shall accordingly limit our account of them to a description of the types of the rings adopted by the Inland Revenue Department.

Any paper which the Department would allow for the embos-

sing of envelopes generally, is admitted for the purpose of being embossed with the additional ring, and it may be cut in any form adapted either for wrappers or envelopes.

The system commenced early in 1857. The earliest known type consists of two plain curved bands, being segments of a circular band 3 mm. wide, and having a diameter of 36 mm. or $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch external measurement. Each of these segments measures 28 mm. in length, and they are applied one above and the other below the official die, each segmental band being outlined by a white line, and the ends rounded. The only firm known to have possessed this type is that of W. H. SMITH and SON, whose name appears in the upper segmental band, and the address, 186, STRAND, W.C., in the lower. The values are one penny, pink, dated 9.6.57, 2d., blue, dated 9.3.57, and 1s., green, dated 9.3.57. The copies seen by us are all surcharged "specimen" in black with a pen and ink, and it seems to be doubtful whether or not this type was ever actually used. If not it would more properly be referred to under the head of "Essays," &c.

The next type dates from July, 1857, and consists of a plain circular band, 4 mm. wide, forming a complete ring of 36 mm. diameter, external measurement, round the stamp. The name of the firm is on a plain cartouche above the Queen's head, and the address on a similar one below, while between the extremities of the cartouches on either side is an eight-rayed star ornament.

This type is found with the names and addresses of various firms both in the home and colonial trades, but M. Rondot (*Magasin Pittoresque*, 1863, p. 293) in giving an engraving (No. 97) of one value, fourpence, struck on an envelope for Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., speaks of it as made specially for them, and designed for Indian postage. This envelope has acquired additional celebrity through being described in Lallier's Album as an "Indian Envelope," and a place being allotted to it in the Indian page. No doubt the whole mistake has arisen from the firm having been described in the lower cartouche as EAST INDIA AGENTS.

The third type is that in use at the present time, and dates from 1861. It consists of a plain circular band, 5 mm. wide,



forming a complete ring round the official stamp of 38 mm., or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, external measurement. The names and addresses are in somewhat larger lettering than in the last preceding type, and are not within cartouches, though the two star-like ornaments are retained. On some of the wrappers of Messrs. Smith,

Elder, and Co. it is found embossed in conjunction with the second type.

SECTION IV.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES.

PREVIOUSLY to the introduction of the uniform penny-post system all letters containing, or supposed to contain, coin or jewellery were registered gratuitously by the Post-office, as a security against loss ; but when the new system came into operation it was considered to be impracticable to continue the service, and with the sanction of the Treasury it was dropped. As the number of letters containing coin and valuables increased, and the depredations also increased in a like ratio, a system of registration was adopted in 1841, but the charge of one shilling was so high that the public did not avail itself to any considerable extent of the protection thereby offered ; for though the registration furnished an extra degree of security to the letter during its transit, yet beyond this the Post-office undertook no further responsibility. In October, 1841, Lord Lowther, the Postmaster-General, proposed to the Lords of the Treasury that he should be allowed to use the powers conferred by 3 and 4 Vict., c. 96, s. 39, and establish a compulsory registration of letters supposed to contain coin or valuables, charging them with the registration fee of one shilling, to be paid by the receiver when not paid by the sender. The proposal was referred to Sir Rowland Hill, who, while he considered the principle of compulsory registration a fair one, yet was of opinion that so long as the registration fee was fixed at one shilling sufficient inducement for voluntary registration was not held out to the public. He therefore advised the Lords of the Treasury to lower the fee ; but as that proposal

was objected to, the question remained in abeyance for some years.

In March, 1848, the fee was reduced to sixpence, and in August, 1862, was still further reduced to fourpence, when compulsory registration was applied to all letters passing through the London office supposed to contain coin or valuables, and in the following year it was extended to all inland letters. The registration system was also made applicable to packets passing by the Book Post.

On the 1st January, 1878, some important changes were made. The fee was reduced to twopence, and the Post-office, although re-affirming that it was not responsible for the safe delivery of registered articles, expressed its willingness to make good the value of any so registered which might be lost in transit, to the extent of £2, on certain conditions, one of them being that, if the article consisted of money, it must, in order to have the benefit of the insurance, be "enclosed in one of the Registered Letter Envelopes sold by the Post-office for the purpose."

It is with these envelopes, then for the first time issued, that we have now to deal.

The issue to the public took place on 1st January, 1878. Many of those issued about that period are found bearing on the stamp the dates of November and December, 1877, but these belong to stock which was prepared previously to the 1st January in view of the issue to take effect on that day. Two sizes only were issued at first; viz., those distinguished at the Post-office by the letters F and G, the first measuring $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, the other $6 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, though the actual sizes are frequently found to vary a little from the standard. These, as also all the other sizes subsequently issued, are made to open at the end, and on the closing flap the registration fee stamp of twopence is struck in relief. They are lined with muslin, and are the invention of Messrs. M'Corquodale and Co., who have taken out a patent for it. As it had previously been the practice with the Post-office to tie each registered letter with a green string, an imitation in blue is printed on the envelopes, the front being traversed by two

blue lines crossing each other at right angles, thus dividing it into four equal parallelograms, and the same is repeated on the back, the horizontal line not extending over the flap, which is left clear for the stamp. The inscriptions on the envelopes are all printed in blue, varying at first in depth of shade, but now nearly always of a light tone of colour. The paper used for the manufacture of them is plain wove of a bluish tinge of white.

The blanks are cut into shape and lined before they are sent to Somerset House to be stamped. From thence they are returned to the contractors, who close them down, print upon them the inscriptions and lines, gum the turn-down flap, and then return them to Somerset House to be put into stock.

1. PROVISIONAL ISSUE.

On the flap of the envelope is a semicircular cartouche, with the words "FOR REGISTRATION ONLY" in block letters in white relief on a solid blue ground, below which is struck the embossed twopenny envelope stamp in blue. The postage at the ordinary letter rate is payable by stamps, as in other letters. On the face of the envelope, in the upper left compartment, is the word "REGISTERED" in a single-lined rectangular frame, and above it are the instructions, "THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST-OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED," the division between the two upper compartments made by the string-line falling between the words "OFFICER" and "OF."



The registration receipt, given by the office at which a registered letter or document is posted, is a sufficient acknowledgment that such an object has been received for *transmission*, but in the case of inland postage no similar acknowledgment can be

obtained from the delivering office that the letter has been duly *delivered*. In the case, however, of letters, &c., despatched to countries included in the Postal Union, such an acknowledgment is obtainable by paying, at the time of posting, 2½d. for the return postage of a form which accompanies the registered object to its destination. There are two kinds of this form—one in English, and the other in French. It is filled in by the despatching officer, stamped with a 2½d. adhesive, and addressed to the postmaster of the delivering office, by whom it is returned, in due course, with the information recorded in the space provided for the purpose, as to whether the object has been delivered and to whom, or, in the case of its not having been delivered, how it has been disposed of. When this form reaches the despatching office again, the sender is communicated with, and apprized as to what has become of that which he registered.

VARIETIES.—The type of the word "Registered" varies considerably, as does also that of the inscription. There are also variations in the length of the space separating the word "Officer" from "of;" and again, in the colour of the impression, which ranges from dark to light blue. To avoid encumbering the list with too many minutiae, only those varieties which are the most marked will be mentioned. These will be found to be dependent principally on the type of the lettering, on the length of the inscription, on the form of the flap, and on the construction of the seams.

This "provisional issue" continued in use from the 1st January, 1878, until the beginning of the month of April following, when a special stamp was brought into use, and substituted for the twopenny envelope stamp with over-arching label.

In the envelopes as first constructed the edges both of the seams and of the turn-down flap were plain, but with a view of affording greater security against their being opened, the seams, in February, 1878, were made with serrated edges, and the flaps were scalloped.

SYNOPSIS.

I.

Date of Issue, 1st January, 1878.

Plain flap. Plain seams.

Size F. $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, or 133 by 83 mm.

1. Legend in small letters measuring 108 mm., dark blue.
2. " " " 112 mm., dark blue.*
3. " " " 112 mm., light blue. No contractor's name on envelope.

In the above three varieties there is no stop after REGISTERED.

4. (a) Legend in small capitals measuring 116 mm., light blue.
- (b) " " " 118 mm. "
5. (a) Legend in large capitals measuring 121 mm. "
- (b) " " " 122 mm. "

In the last four varieties the contractor's name is usually omitted.

Size G. 6 by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, or 152 by 96 mm.

6. Legend in small letters measuring 112 mm., blue.
7. (a) Legend in small capitals measuring 116 mm., light blue.
- (b) " " " 118 mm. "
8. Legend in larger capitals measuring 121 mm. "

II.

Date of issue, February, 1878.

Scalloped flap. Serrated seams.

Size F.

9. Legend in small capitals measuring 118 mm., light blue.
10. Legend in larger capitals measuring 120 mm., "

Size G.

11. Legend in small capitals measuring 118 mm., light blue.
12. Legend in larger capitals measuring 120 mm., "

* The difference in the length of the legend chiefly depends on the words "Officer" and "of" being closer or farther apart. The measurements are taken from the down stroke of the T to the stop at the end of the inscription. Some other varieties may also be made by observing the type of the word "Registered" in the rectangular frame. All these varieties are owing to different settings up of the type in the machines by which the envelopes are printed singly, and on the first issue there was less uniformity in this respect than has since been the case. During the first years of their issue the sale of these envelopes was about 6,000 per day; but in the following year it increased to about 8,000 out of an average of 28,000 letters registered per day in the United Kingdom.

2. PERMANENT ISSUE.

In April, 1878, the twopenny envelope stamp was replaced by a special stamp consisting of the head of the Queen in profile to the left, embossed on a solid circular ground of colour, enclosed in an engine-turned border, on which is shown the inscription in block letters REGISTRATION TWOPENCE. The date plugs are inserted in the lower part of the border.*



VARIETIES.—No envelopes of this issue have been noticed which do not bear the contractor's name under the flap. The subsidiary varieties are those dependent on the following elements; viz., the construction of the envelope, and the inscriptions on its face.

SYNOPSIS.

I. Scalloped flap. Serrated seams.

(a) Inscription in one line, "This letter must be given to an officer of the Post-office to be registered."

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Inscription in small block letters, measuring 118 mm., size F. |
| 2. | " larger " " 121 mm., size F. |
| 3. | " small " " 119 mm., size G. |
| 4. | " larger " " 118 mm., size G. |

(b) Inscription in two lines of capitals, "This letter must be given to an officer of the Post-office to be registered, and a receipt obtained for it."

In the right upper corner, within a single-lined frame, varying in size, "The stamp to pay the postage must be placed here," in small block letters.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stamp frame measuring | 20½ mm. by 23½ mm., size G. |
| " " " " | 21½ mm. by 26 mm., size G. |

* The die was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., the head being the same as that of all the embossed stamps, with a varied bunch of curls.

II. Scalloped flap. Scalloped seams.

In May, 1878, three other sizes were issued, each bearing an inscription similar to that last described, but in larger type. The edges of the flap were scalloped, as were also the seams, instead of being serrated, as in the smaller sizes. A similar rectangular frame with inscription denoted the place where the postage stamp was to be placed.

Size H. 8 by 5 inches.

„ I. 10 by $7\frac{1}{2}$ „

„ K. $11\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 „

III. Plain flap. Serrated seams.

The envelopes being sold singly at the Post-offices as well as in packets of a dozen, the scalloped flaps were inconvenient in retailing them, many being torn. Accordingly, in August, 1878, the scalloped edges were abandoned, and the flap was made plain as at first.

(a) Inscription in two lines as before. The size of the frame for affixing the adhesive stamp varies.

Size F. Stamp frame 20 by $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 25 mm.

„ G. „ „ „ „ „

(b) Similar inscription, but in larger type. Plain flap. Scalloped seams.

Size H. Stamp frame $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 25 mm.

„ I. „ „ „

„ K. „ „ „

3. CERTIFICATES OF POSTING.

Akin to the subject of the registration of letters which has just been considered, it seems convenient to refer here to an attempt on the part of the Post-office to meet the wishes of a portion of the public by providing an acknowledgment on the part of the office that it had received an ordinary letter for transmission.

When the penny-post system was first established, the idea of giving such a receipt was started by Sir Rowland Hill, and by the 8th section of the Act 10 and 11 Vic. c. 85, the Post-

master-General was authorised to direct that receipts might be given for letters at the expense of the party requiring it; but so that the Post-office should not be liable for loss or miscarriage, and the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes were empowered to provide stamps for the purpose.

It was not, however, till the close of the year 1877 that any attempt was made to give effect to the provisions of the Act, when, in consequence of representations made to Lord John Manners, the Postmaster-General, that a want existed for a system under which receipts might be obtained by the senders of ordinary letters handed to the post for transmission, an experimental issue was made of a "Certificate of Posting."

The certificate was in the following form :

"CERTIFICATE of POSTING.

"A (Letter, Newspaper, or Book Packet) not Registered, addressed as under, has been posted at this Office.

"Address in full Date Stamp."

In the right upper corner was embossed a stamp of one halfpenny of the same design and colour as that which had been introduced for stamping post-cards sent in for that purpose by the public. Below the stamp was a compartment for the date stamp of the office. On the back of the certificate were the following instructions :

"The address entered in this Certificate must be exactly the same as that on the Letter, Newspaper, or Book Packet, and it must be plainly written in ink.

"The issue of this Certificate is not to be regarded as effecting Registration, and the Letter, Newspaper, or Book Packet to which it refers will be treated precisely as if posted in a letter-box.

"Letters containing Coin or Jewellery must be registered. Any letter for which a Certificate of Posting may have been given, and which may afterwards be found to contain Coin or jewellery, will be compulsorily registered in accordance with the regulations."

Of these certificates 15,000 were printed and sent to Liverpool, and some other large towns, but the results could hardly be

deemed satisfactory. It must be borne in mind that the certificate was only a proof that a letter had been put into the post at a certain time, and was more especially useful where letters had been entrusted to messengers to post, which must necessarily have been done at a post-office or receiving-house in order to obtain the stamp to the certificate; but as the charge for the certificate amounted frequently to 50 per cent. of the cost of the postage, the system failed to attract the favour of the public. It appears that the average daily number of certificates granted at Liverpool was twenty-seven; and when, on the 1st January, 1878, the reduced registration-fee came into operation, the average daily number fell to twenty-one, and in March declined to fourteen. "The system having failed to meet any demand on the part of the public," as stated in the Postmaster-General's Report for the year 1878-9, was abandoned.

In consequence of representations made to the Postmaster-General in 1880, a further experimental issue of these certificates was commenced on 1st January, 1881, limited to Glasgow. The design is exactly similar to that of the former issue, from which it can only be distinguished by the date of the printing, and by the initials of the printer and the number printed (15,000), being on the back of the certificate, and not on the front, as was the case with the first issue.

4. OFFICIAL ENVELOPES, &c.

Before quitting this branch of our subject we will add a few words regarding a class of stamps which, though not having in reality any postal significance, have yet become the object of collection among certain amateurs who do not appear to limit their collecting to postage adhesive stamps, envelopes, &c., but aspire to extend it to the collection, not only of every thing which carries an object free of postage, but also to things which rather pertain to the internal administration of the Post-office, and the machinery it employs in carrying out its vast business. From

these we will only single out two ; viz., "official envelopes" and "postal orders"—the first because it was made the subject of a careful, though imperfect, monograph,* and the second because money orders clothed with a stamp, though in reality a tax under the guise of a stamp, have been in use for a long period in many parts of the Continent, and by some process, with which we are unacquainted, have found their way into collections of postage stamps.

1. Every Official Department in the State is furnished with envelopes of various sizes, on the upper flaps of which are embossed the Royal Arms, with the name of the particular office to which they are appropriated. Some of these envelopes also bear a printed inscription that the communication is Official or "On Her Majesty's Service," together with the name of the office from which they emanate. Formerly an account was kept of the postage payable in respect of such communications, and was defrayed by an annual vote of Parliament, but at the present time they are entitled to pass through the post as if prepaid, under certain rules that have been laid down for evidencing their origin, which is ordinarily done by a hand-stamp bearing the *fac-simile* signature of the Official or of some one in the Department who is charged with the service. Thus the letters of the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, the Paymaster-General, the Registrar-General, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, the Registrar of Trades' Marks, &c. &c., are stamped with the hand-stamp of these functionaries, and on arriving at the Post-office are stamped, *ipso facto*, in red with a stamp "OFFICIAL PAID." Communications emanating from the Treasury, the Home, Foreign, Colonial, India, and War Offices, the Inland Revenue Department, the Council Office, &c. &c., commonly bear a hand-stamp of the *fac-simile* signature of one or more of the officials in the Department whose particular province it is to control the correspondence sent out, while other Offices, such as the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, &c., make use of a hand-stamp with a special device. All these communi-

* See *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix. p. 177.

cations, on arriving at the Post-office, are in like manner stamped as paid, and pass free to their destination.

In every separate department of the Post-office there is at least one chief officer who franks the correspondence emanating from that particular department, which is subsequently hand-stamped "OFFICIAL PAID," but the ordinary business of the "Returned Letter Office" is carried on by simply enclosing returned letters in an official cover, on which no hand-stamp is impressed. The present practice, however, dates only from a few years back. Formerly a returned letter was enclosed to the writer in an envelope with the Royal Arms embossed on the flap with the addition of "Returned Letter Branch," or "Office," of which there are many different types. Hence appears to have sprung up a notion that some franking, or at least some postal virtue, existed in the seal giving the letter a right of passing free through the post, a notion, however, so erroneous that it is only necessary to say that all such envelopes are simply part and parcel of the internal economy and management of the Post-office, the collection of which ranks in the same category as that of any other of the forms issued by the Post-office for the transaction of its daily business.



2. The average value of each inland money order issued by the Post-office being found to be about thirty shillings, it is clear that, considering the amount so transmitted through the post compared with the number issued, the great bulk of the business is due to the large number of orders for very small amounts, and as a boon to the community the experiment was tried a few years back of reducing the tax upon them. This resulted in an absolute loss to the Post-office, and in 1876 the tax was raised. The increase of the tax was, however, followed by the necessary consequence, a decrease in the business. To obviate this, and at the same time to develop the transmission of small sums, Mr. Chetwynd, the Accountant-

General to the Post-office, put forward a scheme for Postal Notes, representing small sums up to £1, subjected to a poundage-tax according to their value. The scheme was brought before Parliament in 1879, but the Bill was not passed; but it was again brought forward in 1880, and became law under the title of the "Post-office (Money Orders) Act, 1880," 43 and 44 Vict. c. 33. By this Act the Post-master-General, with the consent of the Treasury, was authorised to issue orders in the form set forth in the Act, for the purpose of the transmission of small sums, in addition to the money orders already authorised by law. These postal orders are exempted from stamp duty, but are subjected to a poundage on the following scale; viz.: Of one halfpenny on orders for 1s. and 1s. 6d.; of one penny on orders of 2s. 6d., 5s., and 7s. 6d.; and of twopence on those of 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., and £1.

The "Postal Orders" were issued to the public on 1st January, 1881, and consist of an elaborate design printed in blue on thin white paper, the paper for each value bearing the watermark "Postal Order," with the value in full. The whole of the design is enclosed in a border composed of a zig-zag pattern in which the value in full is repeated many times in small letters, and on the left is a compartment marked off by a similar border, in the upper part of which is the head of the Queen, while the lower portion is left blank for the hand-stamp of the paying office. Various directions are printed on the face, and it is payable at any Post-office that may be designated, within three months from the date of issue. The value in full is in the body of the note, and also on a tablet, in the upper part, which, as also the amount of the poundage inserted below the head of the Queen, are all printed by a second passing through the press.

The design and execution of the work are by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and in both respects reflect great credit upon them.

III.

THE NEWSPAPER AND BOOK POST.

SECTION I

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

ALTHOUGH the Post-office possessed the exclusive privilege of conveying letters at certain rates fixed by the legislature, except when entrusted to a private friend for delivery, or sent by express, yet it neither had, nor ever claimed to have, any similar privilege with respect to the conveyance of newspapers or other printed matter. As has been already mentioned,* newspapers were taxed with a duty as early as the reign of Queen Anne, and continued to be so taxed down to the year 1855. In consideration of this tax they were conveyed by the Post-office free of postage charges, the written newsletters, so graphically described in Lord Macaulay's *History of England*, having been the ordinary medium of news, until in the reign of Queen Anne they were superseded by printed newspapers, though these are met with occasionally as early as the reign of Elizabeth.

The operation of the Act of 1839 establishing the uniform rate of postage was confined to the postage on letters, and made no alteration in the legislation then in force with regard to the conveyance of newspapers, which continued to be governed by the provisions of the Act 6 and 7 Will. IV. c. 76. By this Act the duties imposed by previous legislation were altered and greatly reduced, being thereby fixed at one penny for a sheet

* *Sup.* p. 15.

containing on one side not more than 1,530 superficial inches of letterpress, and at one halfpenny for each supplement not containing on one side more than 765 superficial inches. When the newspaper consisted of more than 1,530 superficial inches, and did not exceed 2,295, the duty was fixed at three halfpence; while if it exceeded 2,295 superficial inches the duty was two-pence. The payment of these duties was denoted by a stamp impressed by the officers of the Inland Revenue Department on the sheet on which the newspaper was subsequently printed, and the Act provided that after the 31st December, 1836, no newspaper should be printed on paper which was not stamped as required by the Act. The impression was uniformly made in red by means of a hand stamp,* except in one instance, which will be referred to more particularly hereafter.

The Act also provided that there should be a separate stamp for each newspaper, the die for which should be prepared under the direction of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes at the cost of the proprietor of the newspaper. In the case of all the hand-stamps, the dies, as the records of those sanctioned by the Commissioners show, were composite; that is, the centre consisted of a design common to all, while the name of the newspaper was added at the side. A letter and number are found in the upper part of the central portion of the impression, but this is merely the number of the die, and has nothing to do with the appropriation of the die to any particular newspaper.

These impressed stamps were not of a hybrid character, that is, partly fiscal and partly postal; for not only was the tax represented by the stamp an undivided one, but no newspaper could be published, either for distribution by hand or by post, otherwise than on paper duly stamped with the entire duty.

* This rather primitive mode of impressing the stamp continued up to the time when the Stamping Department was put under the superintendence of Mr. Edwin Hill, who invented a clever little machine worked by steam for the purpose. There were eight or nine of these machines at work, and they saved a vast deal of manual labour, effecting an economy in wages of about £2,000 a year.

The stamp must be regarded as one purely fiscal, but at the same time carrying with it a certain privilege, in virtue of which the newspaper was admitted to free conveyance by the post.

In the year 1855 the Government, of which Lord Palmerston was the head, resolved to abolish the duty chargeable on newspapers, and it became necessary to make provision for their transmission by the post, inasmuch as if the stamp denoting the duty were done away with the privilege of free postage attached to it would necessarily drop. In order therefore to preserve this privilege, and at the same time to repeal the duty, the Act 18 Vict., c. 27, passed on the 15th June, 1855, enacted that after 14 days from the passing of it, it should not be compulsory (except for the purpose of free transmission through the post), to print any newspaper on paper stamped for denoting the duties imposed on newspapers; and further, that every periodical publication which should be printed within the United Kingdom on paper stamped for denoting the rate of duty imposed under the provisions of the Act 6 and 7 Will. iv., c. 76, should be entitled to enjoy the privilege of transmission and re-transmission by the post between places in the United Kingdom postage free for the space of fifteen days from the date of publication. The Act did not confine the privilege to newspapers properly so called, but extended it to any "periodical publication" printed and published at intervals not exceeding 31 days. Provision was also made that the proprietor or printer of any such periodical publication might send to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, or to such person as they appointed for the purpose, any quantity of paper to be stamped with an appropriated die, the cost of which was to be defrayed by the party sending the paper to be stamped.

Previously to the year 1855 printed matter was not generally transmissible through the post, except at the ordinary letter rate. The "Book Post," as it was termed, had been instituted by a Treasury Warrant of the 7th February, 1848, under the provisions of which packets consisting of a single printed review or pamphlet, the several sheets of which, when more

than one, were sewn or bound together, were admitted to pass through the post at the rate of 6d. per lb., provided that the packet was open at the ends, and not so closed as to prohibit the inspection of the contents. But little alteration was made in these regulations until the year 1855, when it became necessary, in consequence of the abolition of the duty on newspapers, to give the Book Post a new organization. Accordingly a Treasury Warrant was issued, dated the 4th June, 1855, which came into operation on the 11th of the same month, fixing the rates of conveyance by the post of books, printed matter, manuscripts, &c., under certain limitations as to the size of the packets. These rates were as follows :

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---|---|--------------------------|
| | | | | Not exceeding 4 oz., 1d. |
| Exceeding 4 oz. and | „ | „ | „ | 8 oz., 2d. |
| „ | 8 oz. | „ | „ | 16 oz., 4d. |
| „ | 16 oz. | „ | „ | 24 oz., 6d. |
| „ | 24 oz. | „ | „ | 32 oz., 8d. |

And for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and every fractional part of every such additional $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., an additional rate of 2d.

The Act 18 Vict. c. 27 having received the Royal Assent on the 15th June, 1855, another Treasury Warrant was issued on 30th June, containing regulations for the transmission of newspapers by the Book Post, at the same rates as were prescribed by the last-mentioned Warrant of the 4th June.

The effect of the Act 18 Vict. c. 27, coupled with the regulations made by the above-mentioned Treasury Warrants, was that two modes of transmitting a newspaper were open to the sender, the one dependent on the weight irrespective of the size of the sheet, and the other dependent on the size of the sheet irrespective of its weight; for he could either avail himself of the Book Post rates, in which case the postage must be prepaid by ordinary postage stamps at the rate of one penny when the weight did not exceed 4 oz., of twopence where it exceeded 4 oz. and was under 8 oz., &c., or he could send a stamped copy of the newspaper, for which he paid the extra charge for the stamp on the purchase of it. This latter mode possessed an

advantage not shared by the former, as the impressed stamp entitled the newspaper to free transmission and retransmission through the post as frequently as was desired during the space of fifteen days from the date of publication, while the former mode allowed only a single transmission according to weight, but irrespective of the date of publication. By reference to the reports of the Postmasters-General it is evident that the former mode was that which was principally made use of by the public.

When the Act 18 Vict. c. 27 came into operation some of the newspapers which were supplied with paper already stamped used up their stock in hand. With these we do not propose to deal, confining our attention simply to the consideration of those stamps which, after the abolition of the duty in 1855, were impressed upon periodical publications for purposes solely and exclusively postal.

These Stamps were of two kinds :

1. THOSE IMPRESSED BY A HAND-STAMP.*

DESIGN.—The design of the stamp employed for this purpose consisted of a rose, shamrock, and thistle, surmounted by a Crown, while below was the motto, DIEU ET MON DROIT, the whole being on a mantle. Above and below were scrolls, on which was inscribed the value in full—ONE PENNY OR THREE-HALFPENCE, as the case might be.† On the left side was the name of the newspaper or periodical publication reading upwards, and on the right side NEWSPAPER OR PERIODICAL PUBLICATION, as the case might be, reading downwards. (Figs. 1 and 3.)

The stamp with which the impression was made was a com-

* For the sake of distinction we have called this a "hand-stamp," though in reality it was, as we have seen, impressed by the aid of machinery.

† Prior to the Act of 1855 the only values of this stamp in use under the provisions of the Act 6 and 7 Will. IV. c. 76, were one penny for a sheet of the size specified, and one halfpenny for a supplement. On the one penny stamp, impressed at Somerset House, the letter A is found on one side of the Crown, and the distinguishing number of the die on the other side, while in that of one halfpenny the letter is c. When the Act of 1855 came into operation the one halfpenny stamp ceased to be used,

posite one, similar to that employed previously to the passing of the Act 18 Vict. c. 27, the central portion, in which also the number of the die is inserted, being introduced into the special stamp belonging to the particular newspaper.

IMPRESSION.—The impression was made by the Inland Revenue Department on the sheets intended to be printed on in the same manner as had been done previously to the abolition of the duties, and was so placed on the sheet that when it was folded for transmission by post the stamp should be exposed to view, otherwise the newspaper would be liable to be charged with postage.

The colour of the impression, which for some time previously had been carmine-red, was changed to vermilion-red, and was made in ordinary printer's ink.

SYNOPSIS.

1st July, 1855, to 30th September, 1870. One penny.

For an ordinary sized sheet.

1st July, 1855, to 30th September, 1870. Three-halfpence.

For a large sized sheet.

2. THOSE WHICH WERE TYPE-PRINTED.

The history of this issue forms a curious commentary on the mode in which, at times, what Mr. C. Dickens termed the "Circumlocution Office," is found to be a clog upon progress.

After the invention of Fourdrinier, by which paper was manufactured in continuous rolls, attempts were made to construct machines by which it could be printed upon without the necessity of previously dividing it into sheets. As early as 1835 Sir Rowland Hill, assisted by his brother, Mr. Edwin Hill, invented a printing machine for this purpose, and took and the impressed stamps then employed were of the values of one penny and three-halfpence, according to the size of the sheet to be printed on. The one penny bore the letter B, and the three-halfpence the letter L, when impressed at Somerset House. Other letters were made use of for the stamps printed at the offices of the Inland Revenue at Manchester, and also at the offices in Scotland and Ireland.

out a patent for the invention. Evidently this invention was especially adapted to the printing of newspapers; but as it was necessary that these should be printed on sheets of stamped paper, it was impossible to apply it to this purpose. In 1836 Sir Rowland Hill memorialized the Lords of the Treasury to insert a clause in the Stamp Bill then passing through Parliament, authorizing the printer of a newspaper to stamp his own paper, provided that he could satisfy the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes that no danger of fraud to the revenue would arise. The Treasury refused to comply with the memorial, considering that there were insuperable objections to the plan. We give the sequel in the words of Mr. Pearson Hill, the only son of Sir Rowland Hill: "It may not be without interest to show how very easily 'insuperable' official objections can be overcome when those who raise them desire it. Many years afterwards, when the proprietors of a London newspaper (*The Times*) were making improvements in their printing machinery, and required the very facility for which my father had vainly contended, the Board of Inland Revenue, as I am told, on looking into the Act of Parliament on the matter, found that though the printing of the impressed stamp at the same time as the rest of the newspaper was clearly illegal, the only parties who could proceed against any newspaper were the Commissioners of Inland Revenue themselves. Now, as the Commissioners had made up their minds to allow the change, not only was an intimation given to the proprietors of the newspaper in question that they would not be interfered with, but the officers of the stamp office—Mr. Edwin Hill especially—gave most valuable assistance in carrying out the improved, though decidedly illegal, arrangement."*

The mode in which the stamp was applied was as follows: The die was under the charge of an official of the Inland Revenue Department, who was always present during the process of printing the newspaper. The die was inserted in the form at the right upper corner of the first page; and as one copy of the newspaper was printed at each revolution of the machine, a

* *Life of Sir Rowland Hill*, vol. i. p. 230.

tell-tale attached to it showed the number of copies taken off. When the Act 18 Vict. c. 27 came into operation, and the stamp was only necessary on those copies which it was desired should enjoy the postal privilege authorized by the Act, the die was removed by the officer when sufficient stamped copies had been printed, and the printing of the unstamped] copies was then proceeded with.

It was in the year 1853 that this privilege of printing the stamp with the newspaper was granted to the *Times*. In 1856 a similar privilege was granted to the *Stamford Mercury*, and in 1860 to the *Illustrated London News*.

The mode in which the stamp was applied to the *Stamford Mercury* and the *Illustrated London News* differed somewhat from that made use of in printing the *Times*. An apparatus, due to the inventive skill of Mr. Edwin Hill, so secured the diés that, while they could not be removed, they could be worked or not at the pleasure of the printers of the paper, but when worked the machine of necessity actuated the counter of tell-tale. It was very ingenious, and never known to fail.

Four values of the type-printed stamps are to be found; viz., one halfpenny, one penny, three-halfpence, and twopence. The first of these was, however, only applicable to a half-sheet supplement, and was solely employed by the *Times*, having been first used by that newspaper on the 9th November, 1853. When the Act 18 Vict. c. 27 came into operation on the 1st July, 1855, this stamp ceased to be used, as supplements of half-sheets were then no longer issued. Still, as it forms one of this class of stamps, we have included it in our description of them, though from careful searches made through the files of the *Times* we are satisfied that it was never employed after the 30th June, 1855, and consequently can only be regarded as a fiscal stamp.

The one penny stamp was first employed by the *Times* on 18th October, 1853, but continued to be used after the Act 18 Vict. c. 27 came into operation for all such copies as were intended to be forwarded by post under the provisions of that Act.



1



2



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12



13

I. THE ONE HALFPENNY.

DESIGN.—The design of the one halfpenny stamp, which was only employed by the *Times* newspaper, was similar to that of the one penny employed by the same newspaper, and is a flattened circle, as shown in fig. 2, the inscriptions THE TIMES and SUPPLEMENT being inserted in two crescents. In the centre are two branches, one of oak and the other of laurel, following the curves of the interior, starting from a knot of ribbon at the bottom bearing the inscription DIEU ET MON DROIT. Between the upper extremities of these branches is a Crown, with the letter H. on one side and the numeral 1 on the other side of the Crown as distinguishing marks of the die.

This stamp, unlike the other values, was impressed in the right lower corner of the last page of the supplement.

II. THE ONE PENNY.

DESIGN.—There were two distinct designs of this stamp :

First, that employed by the *Times*, which was identical in design with that of the one halfpenny, except that the word NEWSPAPER was substituted for SUPPLEMENT, and the value ONE PENNY inserted in two lines under the Crown in lieu of ONE HALFPENNY. (See fig. 4.) The die was numbered G. 1 ; but at the end of the year 1858 another die was brought into use numbered G. 3, of a similar design with the first die, but with some trifling modifications of the details.

The second design consists of a double oval or flattened circle, between the inner and outer lines of which is the name of the newspaper in the upper and NEWSPAPER in the lower part. Within the oval are two branches, one of oak and the other of laurel, bending so as to follow the curves, and connected together at the starting-point by a knot of ribbon bearing the inscription DIEU ET MON DROIT. Between the upper extremities of these branches is a Crown, on one side of which are the die letters, and the numbers on the other. Under the Crown is the value, ONE PENNY.

There are two dies of this stamp (fig. 7), as used by the *Illustrated London News*, numbered respectively N. 1 and N. 2, differing from one another in details only. The stamp employed for the *Stamford Mercury* (fig. 12) was numbered Q. 1.*

III. THE THREE-HALFPENCE.

The general design of this stamp is that of an elliptical arch, with the value THREE-HALFPENCE in a straight label at the foot. There are two principal designs, one of which was employed for the *Times*, and the other for the *Illustrated London News*.

1. The design of that employed by the *Times* in July, 1855, consists of an elliptical arch, in which is the inscription THE TIMES NEWSPAPER and the value THREE-HALFPENCE in a straight label below. (See fig. 5.) In the interior are two branches, one of oak the other of laurel, connected at the starting-point by a knot of ribbon bearing the inscription DIEU ET MON DROIT, from which springs a spray of rose; while the thistle and shamrock are found on either side. Between the upper extremities of the branches is a Crown, with the letter and number of the die K. 1 on either side. A second die was brought into use at the end of 1858 with the letter and number K. 3, the design of which differs only in some small details.

2. The design of that employed by the *Illustrated London News* (fig. 8) is very similar, save that the whole space on the arch is filled by the title of the newspaper, and the word NEWSPAPER is inserted immediately above the label, on which is the value in full, thus necessitating a different arrangement of the elements composing the design. There are two dies of this value for this newspaper, distinguished by the letter and numerals O. 1 and O. 2.

* This weekly provincial newspaper is one of the oldest (if not the oldest) newspapers in the kingdom, having been published without interruption for the space of 170 years. It began its career in 1710, as is shown by the proprietors possessing vol. vi., published in the year 1715. Its circulation is amongst the most considerable of the provincial papers.

IV. THE TWOPENCE.

The general design of this stamp is that of an elongated octagon, in the lower part of which is a label with the word **NEWSPAPER**, the name of the newspaper being inserted in the upper portions between the outer line of the octagonal frame and an interior line forming a border. There are two designs of this stamp, one of which was employed by the *Times*, and the other by the *Illustrated London News*.

1. The design of that employed by the *Times* (fig. 6) has the inscription **THE TIMES** in the upper border; while the side borders are filled in with a conventional ornamentation. To the right, in the interior, is a branch of oak, with a thistle and shamrock; and to the left a branch of laurel, with a rose and shamrock connected together at the starting-point by a knot of ribbon, with the inscription **DIEU ET MON DROIT**. Between the upper extremities of the branches is a Crown with the letter and number of the die **L. 1.**, under which is the value **TWO PENCE** in two lines.

2. The design employed by the *Illustrated London News* (fig. 9) is similar to the one above described, save that the title of the newspaper fills up the entire space in the upper five sides of the octagonal parallelogram. There are two dies of this value for this newspaper distinguished by the letter and numerals **P. 1** and **P. 2**.

SYNOPSIS.

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----|---|
| One penny (<i>Times</i>) | | G 1 | 18th Oct., 1853, to Dec., 1853. |
| " | " | G 3 | Jan., 1859, to 30th Sept., 1870. |
| One halfpenny | | H 1 | 9 Nov., 1853, to 30 June, 1855. |
| Three halfpence | | K 1 | 1st July, 1855, to Dec., 1858. |
| " | " | K 3 | Jan., 1858, to 30th Sept., 1870. |
| Twopence | | L 1 | 1 July, 1855, to 30 Sept., 1870. |
| One penny (<i>Illustrated London News</i>) | " | N 1 | } These were used indiscriminately between 1860 and 1870. |
| " | " | N 2 | |
| Three halfpence | " | O 1 | |
| " | " | O 2 | |
| Twopence | " | P 1 | |
| " | " | P 2 | |
| One penny (<i>Stamford Mercury</i>) | | Q 1 | 1856 to 30th Sept., 1870. |

SECTION II

NEWSPAPER AND BOOK POST WRAPPERS.

No alteration was made in the inland Newspaper Post between the years 1855 and 1870. By a Treasury Warrant dated the 14th August, 1856, the Book Post rates were somewhat modified; and the following scale was fixed to take effect on and from the 1st of September then next, such rates to be prepaid in stamps :

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | Weight not exceeding 4 oz., | 1d. |
| Exceeding 4 oz. and | „ „ | 8 oz., 2d. |
| „ 8 oz. | „ „ | 16 oz., 3d. |
| „ 16 oz. | „ „ | 24 oz., 4d. |
| „ 24 oz. | „ „ | 32 oz., 8d. |

Successive Warrants of the 8th April, 1857 (*London Gazette*, 14th April), and 16th October, 1857 (*London Gazette*, 20th October), varied these rates and the regulations in some unimportant details, the latter Warrant fixing the progressive rate at 2d. per $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. The first effect of the alteration of the law in 1855 had been to increase the number of book packets passing through the London office 273 per cent. ; but as the average weight had been reduced from 10 oz. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the increase in the total weight was only 70 per cent. over the quantity which passed through the same office in 1854. The abolition of the duty on newspapers had, however, caused a decrease of one-fourth in the number of newspapers posted, which was due to the railway companies having commenced to carry unstamped newspapers at lower rates than they were conveyed by the Post-office. In 1855 the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire

Railway Company began to carry newspaper parcels at low rates, the prepayment of the carriage being evidenced by a special label affixed to the parcel. Other railway companies did the same thing, though it was not until some years that the use of these prepaying labels became general; but in the years 1867 and 1868 there was scarcely a railway in England or Scotland which did not issue labels of various values for the prepayment of single newspapers and parcels of newspapers of different weights, the charge for a single newspaper being represented by a label of one halfpenny, and for parcels by labels proportioned to the weight of each.

By a Treasury Warrant of the 11th September, 1863 (*London Gazette*, 29th September), a concession was made to the public by allowing samples and patterns of goods of *no intrinsic value* to be sent by the post, under certain restrictions as to size and up to 24 oz. in weight, at rates equal to three times those payable under the Book Post. These rates were altered by a Warrant dated the 16th August, 1864; and by another Warrant dated the 27th December, 1864, prices current were placed on the same footing as newspapers in respect of transmission by post.

The condition that the samples and patterns should be of *no intrinsic value* afforded room, as might easily have been foreseen, for divergence of views between the officials and the public. After some experience of the friction thus occasioned the Treasury removed the obnoxious restriction, and also reduced the rates by a Warrant dated 20th March, 1865 (*London Gazette*, 24th March). By its terms all packets of patterns or samples were transmissible by post if sent according to the regulations thereby laid down, and not exceeding a certain size and 24 oz. in weight, at the following rates, to be prepaid in stamps, viz.:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | Weight not exceeding 4 oz., 2d. |
| Exceeding 4 oz. and | „ | „ | 8 oz., | 4d. |
| „ 8 oz. | „ | „ | 16 oz., | 8d. |
| „ 16 oz. | „ | „ | 24 oz., | 1s. |

A certain portion of the public, principally tradesmen, and especially seedsmen, availed themselves of these cheap rates for sending small parcels, for the transmission of which this post became the recognized medium ; but it was abolished in March, 1871, when the letter rate of one penny for every half-ounce was altered to that now in force.

At length the public began to discover that the rates as established by the Post-office for the conveyance of newspapers and printed matter were exorbitant, and this was especially felt in the Book Post rates, where the minimum charge for the transmission by post of printed matter was the same as for a letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight ; whereas in France, where the single rate on a letter weighing one-third of an ounce was 20 centimes, or nearly 2d., a newspaper weighing four times that weight was conveyed for one halfpenny, and printed matter such as circulars, invoices, &c., of the weight of a single letter was carried for one-sixth of a penny, and of half that weight for one-twelfth of a penny ; while many Continental States afforded equal, if not greater, facilities for the conveyance of printed matter by the post, especially where it was of small weight. Thousands of circulars were sent to Belgium to be posted, the postal rate from thence to England being only $\frac{1}{2}$ d., while other attempts were made to substitute some cheaper mode for their distribution.

Mr. R. Brydone, a native of Edinburgh, seems to have imagined that the postal laws did not extend to prohibit private individuals from undertaking the conveyance and delivery of printed circulars. Accordingly at the end of the year 1865 he organized a company, under the name of the "Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company," which, in addition to the conveyance and delivery of small parcels, undertook the delivery of circulars for "door-to-door" advertisers. Adhesive stamps of the value of one farthing were issued by the Company, bearing as a device the arms of Edinburgh and Leith on two shields, and are found in red-brown, violet, and green, imperforate ; in violet, and green, rouletted ; and in mauve, and green, perforated

11½. These stamps were affixed to the circulars, and some are found obliterated with a hand stamp of "R. B. & Co."

The enterprise appears to have been successful, as a competitor sprang up early in 1866, and issued an adhesive stamp bearing the inscription "Clark & Co., Circular and Parcel Deliverers, 10, Calton Street, Edinburgh" on a lattice-work ground. The whole was printed in blue on white paper; but as no value was inserted it is possible that the stamp was only employed as a species of advertising ticket.

Early in 1867 the Edinburgh and Leith Company issued two other stamps, identical in design with those first issued, but of smaller size and somewhat better executed. They were printed in both mauve and green, and are to be found imperforate and rouletted. Similar companies were also established in Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Liverpool, all of which issued stamps representing a farthing or a halfpenny.

The promoters of the Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company in 1866 extended the field of their operations to London, their aim being, according to their announcement, "to economise the labour and expense, besides securing the regular delivery of open circulars, pamphlets, &c., now so frequent and effective a medium of 'door-to-door' advertising." The "London Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Company" accordingly issued two stamps, of the respective values of one farthing and one halfpenny, the colour of the first being blue, and that of the latter mauve. The design was the same for both, being the arms of the City of London in a shield; above and below were scrolls, on the one was inscribed LONDON, and on the other CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO., and the value was at the foot. They were issued unperforated, as also perforated 12.

Whether the "London and Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company" was the last-mentioned Company under a new name, or an entirely distinct undertaking, does not seem to be clear, but it is found, in April, 1867, issuing a prospectus, in which the directors state that "to insurance companies, commercial and professional firms, and all who advertise by means of circulars,

these companies will be of great service. The Company's stamp is affixed to each circular, which will secure its proper delivery to the party to whom it is addressed." The stamps issued by the Company were similar in design to those of the "London Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Company," and were perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The colour of the one farthing was pink, and that of the one halfpenny orange. The name of the Company was subsequently altered to the "London and Districts," and the colour of the stamps changed to green for the one farthing, and pink for the one halfpenny.

The promoters of these companies next appear to have contemplated extending their operations over a wider field, and proposed to distribute circulars not only in London and its neighbourhood, but they engaged to make a similar distribution in other towns in which branches were established. This was to be done by the "National Circular Delivery Company," and stamps were issued by this Company of the values of one farthing, one halfpenny, one penny, and three-halfpence.

In the month of August, 1867, the proceedings of these Companies attracted the notice of the Government, and the Law Officers of the Crown instructed the Solicitor to the Post-office to take measures for their suppression. One of the messengers of the London and Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company engaged in delivering circulars was therefore brought before the police magistrate at the head office in Bow Street, on the 30th August, 1867, charged with "delivering letters contrary to the privilege of the Postmaster-General," and was convicted in a penalty of £5. The proprietor of the business carried on under the name of the Company, and who was the virtual defendant in the case, stated that he would take care for the future that no circulars but what were open should be sent out for delivery; but the presiding magistrate, Sir Thomas Henry, warned him against the danger of such a course, and that the Acts 7 Will. IV. and 1 Vict. c. 36 were most stringent Acts, passed on purpose to protect the privileges of the Post-office, and could not be evaded in that way. In fact, the defendant had been keeping a sort

of little post-office, which neither he or anyone else had any right to do.

A series of stamps, all similar in general design, and of the values and colours of one farthing, green ; one halfpenny, blue ; three-farthings, lilac ; and one penny, vermilion, appear to have been subsequently issued under the titles of the "London Delivery Company," the "Dundee Delivery Company," the "Manchester Delivery Company," the "Glasgow Delivery Company," the "Liverpool Delivery Company," the "Aberdeen Delivery Company," the "Birmingham Delivery Company," the "Metropolitan Delivery Company," and the "Edinburgh and Leith Delivery Company," the word "Circular" having been omitted ; but the above-mentioned prosecution was a death-blow to the schemes of the promoters, who appear to have abandoned their expressed intention of appealing against the decision of Sir Thomas Henry, and of involving themselves in the risk of further proceedings with so powerful an antagonist as the Crown in the litigation.*

This attempt to invade the privileges of the Post-office, however puerile it may appear, had nevertheless a certain amount of effect in directing the attention of the public to the excessive charges of the Post-office for the conveyance of printed matter of small weight. Pressure was brought to bear on the Government, but the chief merit is due to the late Mr. Graves, the member for Liverpool, who warmly took up the cause of the advocates for a reduction of the rates of postage on printed matter and newspapers. In April, 1869, he brought the question before the House of Commons, when he produced a sheet on which were stamps of twenty-five countries, all of which were less than one penny in value, and some of them

* The existence of these labels has been mentioned solely because they have attracted the notice of some collectors, for the especial benefit of whom a large proportion of them seem to have been prepared. To those who are curious in the Railway Newspaper Parcel Tickets and these labels of the Circular Delivery Companies, a lengthened account of them by Dr. Magnus will be found in *Le Timbrophile* for 1868, pages 321, 327, 354, 367, 375, and 384.

only of the value of $\frac{1}{12}$ th of a penny. The Government promised to consider the matter, though the Marquis of Hartington, then Postmaster-General, predicted vastly increased labour and great loss to the Post-office, if the proposed reduction to one halfpenny for two ounces was carried into effect; predictions which were by no means verified by the results. In the following year the Government brought in a Bill which subsequently, on the 9th August, 1870, became the Act 33 and 34 Vict. c. 79, whereby, on and after the 30th September, 1870, the impressed stamp on newspapers was done away with, and any newspaper, irrespective of its size or weight, provided that it had been previously registered at the General Post-office, was allowed to be sent by post for one halfpenny, but if not so registered it became liable to be charged at the Book Post rate fixed by the Act at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every two ounces. Full effect was given to other provisions of the Act by a Treasury Warrant of the 26th September, 1870 (*London Gazette*, 30th September), which also contained the regulations* of the Postmaster-General, issued with the approval of the Treasury, in conformity with the provisions of the Act.†

1. THE HALFPENNY WRAPPER.

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.

The 18th Section of the "Post-office Act, 1870," directed the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to provide proper dies and

* The regulation that newspapers for abroad must be posted within eight days from the date of publication was made to prevent a too great influx on the day the mails were made up for despatch.

† The reduction effected by the Act of 1870 was a step in the right direction; but when it is considered that the present rate of the Book Post as fixed by the Act is the same as that in force between England and the whole of the Continent, as also between England and the United States and the other countries in the first class of the Postal Union, it is impossible to deny that a further reduction ought to be made, especially on printed matter of small weight, and there is no valid reason why a stamp of one-eighth of a penny should not be allowed to prepay a circular of half an ounce in weight.

other implements for denoting by stamps or otherwise the duties of postage payable under the Act or any Treasury Warrant. In the month of September the following notice, emanating from the General Post-office, appeared in the public journals, addressed to newspaper proprietors and newspaper agents :

“In connection with the reduction in the rates of Postage on Inland Newspapers, Printed Matter and Patterns or Samples, which will take effect on and from the 1st of October, Halfpenny Postage Labels and Newspaper Wrappers bearing an impressed Halfpenny Stamp will be introduced. A supply of each is in course of issue to Head Postmasters in the Country, and to the District Offices and the Receiving Offices in London. Previously to the 1st of October the sale of these Labels and Wrappers will be confined to Newspaper Proprietors and News-agents, who might possibly be inconvenienced were not time allowed for preparation ; but as the Reduction of Postage does not commence before the 1st of October, anything bearing a Halfpenny Stamp posted before that date will be treated as unpaid. Newspaper Proprietors and News-agents, by applying to a Head Postmaster, will be able to obtain at very short notice any quantity of these Labels or Wrappers. The Wrappers (the dimensions of which are 14 inches by 5 inches) will be sold at the following prices : 500 for £1 2s. 6d., 100 for 4s. 6d., 50 for 2s. 3d., 25 for 1s. 1½d., 10 for 5½d., 5 for 3d., 2 for 1½d., 1 for ¾d., but a discount of 1 per cent. will be allowed to persons purchasing at one time not less than £10 worth of either Labels or Wrappers. Newspaper Proprietors and News-vendors who may desire to have their own Wrappers on Paper impressed with the Halfpenny Stamp must make application, not to the Post-office, but to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. Wrappers must be of white paper.”

Simultaneously with the issue of the above notice from the General Post-office the Commissioners of Inland Revenue issued the following :

“WRAPPERS FOR NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER.

“The Board of Inland Revenue desire to give notice that SHEETS of PAPER, for wrappers for Newspapers, Book Packets, and Patterns of Sample Packets, can be IMPRESSED with the HALFPENNY POSTAGE STAMP under the following regulations :

"1st. The paper must be white, and must neither be folded nor creased.

"2nd. The size of the sheets must be double crown, double demy, or double royal.

"3rd. Each sheet must be prepared to receive 8, 12, or 16 stamps. No other number can be impressed; and the stamps can be impressed only in the positions and at the distances apart indicated upon pattern sheets, which may be seen at the head offices at London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

"4th. The stamp will be impressed immediately above the place for the address, and near the right-hand edge of the wrapper. To give space for the stamp, any printing on the sheets should be kept $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch clear of what is to be the right-hand edge of the wrapper.

"5th. Each lot sent in must be accompanied by a sheet marked to show in accordance with which of the patterns it is desired that the stamps should be placed.

"6th. The paper must be delivered at the offices above mentioned in reams of 480 sheets.

"7th. Not less than two reams for one description of wrapper can be received for stamping.

"8th. Any sheets found to have been injured in the process of stamping may be returned to this office, with an equal number of fresh sheets, on the next occasion of similar sheets being sent in, when the stamps will be transferred.

"9th. When the paper is brought for stamping a person must attend at the department of the Receiver-General to fill up the necessary warrant, and to pay the amount of the stamps required. No discount is allowed.

"10th. Persons in the country must not send to the offices through the post or by carriers, but must send through an agent.

"By order of the Board,

"T. SARGENT, *Secretary.*

"*Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London,
9th September, 1870.*"*

DESIGN.—The design consists of the profile of the Queen to the left on a solid circular ground of colour, with an arched band above, on which is the value HALFPENNY; the whole

* The above regulations have since been somewhat modified, and not less than *one* ream of paper for one description is now received; nor is any particular degree of whiteness in the paper rigorously insisted on.

being enclosed in an upright rectangular frame, with the angles rounded.

DIE.—The die was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and furnished with holes to receive the date plugs. Casts were taken from the die for the purpose of printing the wrappers. Those sold by the Post-office are printed and supplied to the Inland Revenue Department by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., but those which are supplied to the order of private individuals on paper furnished by them are printed at the offices of the Department at Somerset House, under the before-mentioned regulations, and of these no further mention need be made, except that the impression is found to vary rather more in depth of colour than in those printed and supplied by the contractors.



First Issue.

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.

The date of issue, 1.10.70, was inserted in the die, and a large stock was so printed by the contractors. Specimen prints of the die were officially approved on 4th and 5th July, 1870.

The impression was in green, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

The wrapper measured 14 inches by 5 inches. It was square at each extremity, and gummed at the top with yellowish gum.*

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, November, 1870.

In the following month the date plugs were removed, and replaced by florets.

* These stamps are to be found with various dates during the month of December, 1871, and the first three months of 1872. They were impressed on half sheets of paper, on which were printed forms of certificates connected with the provisions of the Vaccination Acts. It may be remarked that the colour of these stamps is ordinarily of a much deeper tone than in those composing the general issue.

The size of the wrapper was also altered, and measured a little less than 12 inches in length by 5 inches wide. Two other sizes were also introduced, the one measuring 9 by 4 inches, and the other 7 by 4 inches.* The wrappers still continued to be cut square at the ends, and the top gummed with the same yellow gum.



Third Issue.

Date of Issue, January, 1871.

In January, 1871, a slight modification was made in the shape of the wrapper. The corners of the gummed end were tapered off; but no change was made in any other respect, and the wrappers continued to be issued in the three sizes.

The two smaller sizes not appearing to find much favour with the public, the issue of them was discontinued on the 1st April, 1873, and the wrappers were only sold in quantities of twelve, at 6½d., or in multiples of twelve.

Fourth Issue.

Date of Issue, October, 1875.

In October, 1875, the wrapper appeared with the following instructions, printed in three lines of type about midway between the stamp and the top gummed edge :

“This wrapper must be used only for Newspapers, or for printed papers which may be sent under the Book Post, otherwise the packet will be charged with postage.”

Fifth Issue.

Date of Issue, November, 1875.

In the following month the above instructions were altered as follows into a paragraph of five lines :

“This wrapper may only be used for Newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the book rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise. If this rule be infringed, the packet will be charged as a letter.”

* This latter size is given on the authority of M. Mahé (see *Timbrophile* for November, 1870, p. 591), and it would appear to be the only size he had seen. The other sizes are in the possession of the authors.

The prices at which the wrappers were sold to the public were somewhat modified, and single copies were obtainable at the various Post-offices.

In December, 1877, a change was made in the paper, which up to this period was nearly white, and was of such inferior quality that a large percentage of the wrappers burst in the course of transmission by the Post-office, to the annoyance of the public and loss of time by the officials. A tougher paper was selected of the kind generally known as cap paper or whity-brown.*

In May, 1879, the colour of the impression was changed (without any other alteration being made) to red-brown. The lower corners of the wrappers were also slightly tapered off, a modification which had been made at the close of the previous year.

The authorities in May, 1881, issued a Notice that wrappers of a better quality will be issued for sale to the public on the 1st of June, and the use of those in stock discontinued after the present supply is sold off.

Specimens of the one halfpenny and the one penny wrapper next described, in sizes differing from those officially issued and without any printed instructions, are to be met with in collections; but all such have been printed at the request of private applicants under the regulations before referred to.

SYNOPSIS.

ONE HALFPENNY.

First Issue.

White paper, square ends. Stamp dated 10.1.70.

1st October, 1870. One size. 14 × 5 inches, green.

Second Issue.

White paper, square ends. No date.

November, 1870. Three sizes. 12 × 5 inches, green.

9 × 4 " "
7 × 4 " "

* Experiments were made on the white paper, and that proposed to be substituted, not only by macerating the two kinds in water, and thus ascertaining the quantity of fibrous matter contained in each, but the tenacity was further tested by weighting the samples up to the breaking point.

Third Issue.

White paper, top corners tapered. No date.

January, 1871. Three sizes. 12 × 5 inches, green.

9 × 4 " "
7 × 4 " "

Fourth Issue.

White paper, top corners tapered. Instructions in three lines.

No date.

1st October, 1875. One size. 12 × 5 inches, green.

Fifth Issue.

(1) White paper, top corners tapered. Instructions in five lines.

No date.

November, 1875. One size. 12 × 5 inches, green.

(2) Whity-brown paper, top corners tapered. Instructions, &c.,
as in (1).

December, 1877. One size. 12 × 5 inches, green.

(3) Paper, &c., as in (2); lower corners also tapered.

May, 1879. One size. 12 × 5 inches, red-brown.

(4) Paper, whity-brown, stouter and better quality, top corners
only tapered.

1st June, 1881. One size. 12 × 5 inches, red-brown.

2. THE ONE PENNY WRAPPER.

Date of issue, September 13th, 1878.

In the month of August, 1878, the Post-office gave notice of its intention to issue forthwith a wrapper of the value of one penny, principally designed for the accommodation of the public in transmitting newspapers under the weight of 4 oz. to countries within the postal union, and for printed papers and patterns not exceeding 4 oz. in weight to countries within class A. It also serves for patterns to countries within class B where the weight does not exceed 2 oz.

The issue of this wrapper was to have taken place on the 1st September, 1878; but it was not till the 13th of that month that it was actually sold to the public.

DESIGN.—Diademed profile of the Queen within a double oval on a solid ground of colour; **POSTAGE** in the upper part of the oval border, and **ONE PENNY** in the lower part in block letters, with ornaments at the sides.



DIE.—The die, like that of the one halfpenny last described, was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and the wrappers supplied to the public by the Post-office were in like manner printed and prepared by that firm.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in red-brown on whity-brown or cap paper, and the wrapper measures 12 inches by 5 inches. The top edge is gummed, and the corners at the top and bottom are tapered off. There are no instructions printed on the wrapper.

The authorities at Somerset House imprint this value also for the public, on paper supplied by the applicants, under similar regulations to those in force for the halfpenny value.

SYNOPSIS.

ONE PENNY.

Whity-brown paper, corners tapered.

13th September, 1878. One size. 12 × 5 inches, red-brown.

3. SPECIAL STAMPS FOR NEWSPAPERS.

Many of the newspaper proprietors and newspaper agents availed themselves of the permission to send in paper to the Inland Revenue Office to be stamped as wrappers, on which was frequently printed the name of the newspaper or the name and address of the agent; but the *Times* and the *Stamford Mercury*, both of which, as has been already men-

tioned, had, previously to the 1st October, 1870, employed type-printed stamps for the purpose of prepaying the postage, entered into arrangements with the Post-office for the use of a special type-printed obliterated stamp of one halfpenny. This privilege was accorded to them on condition that the stamps should be printed only on those copies which were sent direct from the office of the newspaper to the principal Post-office, which had thereby a check on the number bearing the franking stamp.

Accordingly a notice was issued by the General Post-office, on the 30th September, 1870, in the following terms :

“On and after 1st October next certain copies of the *London Times* and of the *Stamford Mercury* Newspapers will bear an obliterated Postage Stamp impressed on the Newspaper itself, but this impressed Stamp will be available for such copies only as are posted at the General Post Office, London, or at the Head Post Office in Stamford respectively. The Postage on copies of the *Times* or *Stamford Mercury* posted elsewhere must be prepaid either by a Halfpenny Postage Label or a Stamped Newspaper wrapper, otherwise they must be charged with Postage.”

The design of the stamp made use of by the *Times*, and which still continues to be employed by this journal for all copies sent by post from the chief office to places within the United Kingdom, consists of a single-lined rectangular parallelogram, measuring 37 by 22½ mm. (fig. 13), within which are two curved branches, one of oak and the other of laurel, connected together at the starting-point by a knot, in which is a rose, a thistle being to the left, and a bunch of shamrock to the right. Below this design and within the parallelogram is “ONE HALFPENNY,” and above the design “THE TIMES.” Between the upper extremities of the branches is a peculiarly shaped Crown. Over all this is engraved an upright oval obliterating mark of ten thick lines, with a diamond-shaped blank in the centre, in which is the No. 70, denoting the distinguishing number of the newspaper office in the chief office at St. Martin’s le Grand. On the left of this

diamond-shaped blank is the letter A ; on the right, the letter B. This obliterating mark measures 20 by 24 mm.

The design of the stamp for the *Stamford Mercury* is very similar to that of the one penny oval stamp in black previously employed for denoting the payment of the postage on this newspaper (fig. 10), and consists of a branch of oak and another of laurel, connected by a ribbon bearing the motto "DIEU ET MON DROIT" within a double oval frame. The branches are curved so as to follow the contour of the oval, and in the upper part is a Crown, with the letter B on each side, as the die mark. In the upper part of the frame is "STAMFORD MERCURY," and in the lower part "ONE HALFPENNY." The obliteration, which is engraved on the die with which the impression is struck, is similar in design to the ordinary oval obliterating stamp, but of smaller dimensions than that employed for letters, which latter measures 28 by 19 mm., while that of the stamp measures only 20 by 16 mm. The figures also, representing the number of the obliterating stamp for Stamford (742), are only 6 mm. high, while in the letter obliterating stamp they are 8½ mm. This obliterating stamp is so engraved on the die as that the figures occupy the blank spaces in the centre of the stamp.

The *Stamford Mercury* ceased to make use of this type-printed stamp about two years back, and now employs a wrapper of white paper on which the ordinary one halfpenny stamp is impressed. This stamp is obliterated in black by a small circular hand-stamp, of 16½ mm. in diameter (fig. 11), on the exterior of which, in a cartouche extending over about three-fifths of the circumference, is the inscription "STAMFORD MERCURY." Within the circle are the numerals 742, and "STAMFORD," in capitals, following the curve of the circle below, the remaining vacant spaces in the circle being filled up with obliterating lines.

IV.

POST CARDS.

I.

INLAND POST CARDS.

THE "Post-office Act, 1870" (33 and 34 Vict. c. 79), authorized the issue of Post Cards at a postal rate of one halfpenny, and by Section 18 gave the necessary powers to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to provide dies, &c., for carrying the provisions of the Act into execution.

The Act, which received the Royal Assent on the 9th August, 1870, provided that it should come into operation from and after the 30th September then next. On the 9th of September the following notice was issued :

"POST CARDS.

"Pursuant to an Act passed in the last session of Parliament (33 and 34 Vict. c. 79), POST CARDS have been prepared for correspondence by Post in the United Kingdom after the 30th of the present month, stamped with the postage duty of one halfpenny.

"These cards will be sold without any charge beyond the duty. A single card or any number of cards may be purchased, but they will be sent out from this office in packets containing twenty-four cards, price 1s., and in parcels of twenty packets, price £1.* They may be obtained at all Post-offices, and from licensed vendors of stamps.

* In April, 1872, in consequence, as was stated by the Postmaster-General, of complaints of the papermakers and stationers, that their trade was seriously affected by the sale of post cards at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. each, without any charge being made for the cards themselves, the price was fixed at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per dozen, and they were only sold by the Post-office in packets of one dozen.

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"The cards will be also supplied when required in sheets containing forty-two cards, and measuring about 29½ by 21½. Although the cards may thus be obtained in sheets for the purpose of affording facility for printing upon them, each card must afterwards be separated from the sheet, as no combination of cards can pass through the Post-office.

"Such sheets will be issued only in half-reams, containing 240 sheets (10,080 cards), duty £21, and will be supplied to the public at the Inland Revenue Offices in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and at the offices of the distributors and sub-distributors of stamps in the country. A discount of 4s. per half-ream will be allowed to purchasers.

"When a supply of cards in sheets is required elsewhere than in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, application in writing must be made to the warehouse-keeper at this office, or at the Inland Revenue Office in Edinburgh or Dublin, as the case may be. Such application must specify the quantity required, and the town or place having a stamp office to which it is desired that the consignment should be made.

"The applicants will have notice when they are to call at the stamp office and pay the duty.

"Post cards cannot be used before the 1st October.

"Those made up in packets will not be sold before that date; but cards in sheets will be supplied by this office on and after 26th instant, to enable the public to print on them preparatory to their use next month.

"It is desirable that persons requiring cards in sheets should make early application for them.

"By order of the Board,

"(Signed) T. SARGENT, *Secretary*.

"INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE,

"9th September, 1870."

TYPE I.

Date of Issue, 1st October, 1870.*

DESIGN.—The design was prepared, and the cards manufactured and printed, by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. In the right upper angle is a rectangular stamp 22 mm. by 18 mm., within which is a profile of the Queen to the left on a solid circular ground

* By a somewhat curious coincidence this date was exactly one year from that when post cards were first issued by the Austrian Post-office.

of colour, below which is **HALF PENNY** in coloured letters on a straight white label. To the left of the stamp are the Royal Arms, with **POST CARD** above, and **THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE** below them. Under this, to the extreme left, is the word **TO**, and the whole is enclosed in a Greek-pattern frame measuring $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 109 by 74 mm., in the larger sized, and $4\frac{3}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 112 by 65 mm., in the smaller sized cards.



Curiously enough, for Messrs. De La Rue and Co. are nothing if not accurate, the inscriptions on the arms display a variety of faults, the most remarkable of which is a malformation of the **N** in the word **PENSE** in the motto on the garter encircling the arms, the middle stroke of which goes from bottom to top instead of from top to bottom.

IMPRESSION.—The impression was in violet on a light buff-coloured thin card of 120 to the inch. It was made in two sizes, one measuring $4\frac{3}{8}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 121 by 87 mm., and the other $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or 121 by 74 mm. Only one edition of the larger size was issued, as it was found that the width rendered the cards inconvenient in use. Some variations are found as well in the colour of the impression as in the tint of the card. They are printed on sheets composed of 42 cards in 7 rows of 6 cards in a row. The official copies registered at Somerset House have each card on the sheet numbered in ink by hand, the dates of allowance being as follows:—the 6th July, 1870, on a sheet of the “large size,” and the 28th June, 4th July, and 17th November, 1870, on three sheets of the “small size,” numbered from 1 to 126.

TYPE II.

Date of Issue, 1st January, 1875.

On the 1st January, 1875, an alteration was made on the face of the card by the suppression of the word “**TO**,” but in other respects no change was made in the type; and the same die of the arms continuing to be used, the malformation of the “**N**”

in the garter motto remained. The size of the card was $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

On the 1st February, 1875, an issue of this type was made, printed in red-brown on a thick white card (60 to the inch). This issue was announced to the public by a circular from the Post-office, issued a few days previously, to the following effect :

“A desire having been expressed for a post card of a superior quality to those now in use, it is intended to issue experimentally a limited number of somewhat superior cards on the 1st February next at the price of 8d. per dozen. These cards may be obtained at any of the head Post-offices, and at the branch offices in London, and will be sold at the rate of 8d. for 12 cards, or 4d. for 6 cards. The new post cards will be designated ‘stout’ cards to distinguish them from the present ‘thin’ cards, and they will be subject to the same rules and conditions in regard to their transmission by post as the present cards. It having been found that the price at which the present ‘thin’ post cards have hitherto been sold is not remunerative, the price of these cards has been raised since the 1st of January from $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7d. for a packet of 12 cards, and 6 cards may be obtained for $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. No smaller number than six, either of the ‘stout’ or of the ‘thin’ cards, will be sold.”*

TYPE III.

Date of Issue, 1st January, 1878.

DESIGN.—The stamp was changed to one measuring only $18\frac{1}{2} \times 21$ millimètres. The profile of the Queen was still in a circle, but the word HALFPENNY was placed in a curved label above the head, and the ornamentation in the spandrels was altered. The frame or border to the card was suppressed, and the legend, though similar to that of the previous issues, was differently disposed, the words



* This rule has been relaxed, and single cards are now sold at the Post-offices at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for a thin or stout card, $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. for 2 thin ones, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. for 2 stout ones ; $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. for 3 thin ones, and 2d. for 3 stout ones ; $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. for 4 thin ones, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. for 4 stout ones ; 3d. for 5 thin ones, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. for 5 stout ones ; $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 6 thin ones, and 4d. for 6 stout ones.

POST and CARD being separated by the Royal Arms, which were also re-engraved. In the new engraving of the Arms the tail of the lion stands farther away from the mane, the near fore-leg of the unicorn encroaches on the garter enclosing the arms, and the malformation of the N in PENSE is corrected.

IMPRESSION, &c.—The impression is in red-brown on both “thin” and “stout” cards, which are similar in size to those of the preceding issue. The official allowance of the impression of this issue is dated 24th October, 1877.

SYNOPSIS.

ONE HALFPENNY.

TYPE I.

Large Size, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

1st October, 1870, violet, light and dark shades, on light buff.

Small Size, $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

1st October, 1870, violet, light and dark shades, on light buff.

” ” ” on yellower buff.
 ” lilac (shades) on yellower buff.

TYPE II.

1st January, 1875, lilac (shades) on buff.

1st February, 1875, red-brown on “stout” white.

TYPE III.

1st January, 1878, red-brown, on “thin” buff.

” ” ” on “stout” white

II.

POSTAL UNION POST CARDS.

TYPE I.

DATE OF ISSUE.—Simultaneously with the issue of the two-pence halfpenny adhesive stamp on the 1st of July, 1875, a postal card of half that value was issued for circulation within the limits of the countries which had joined the “General Postal Union.”

DESIGN.—The card measured $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 122 by 87 millimètres, and had a Greek-patterned frame on the front. The design of the stamp was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue,



who have manufactured all the postal cards sold by the Post-office; it shows the profile of Queen Victoria to left on a solid ground of colour within a circular border, the inner line of which is composed of pearls, and the exterior of a double line. In the upper part of this circular border is ONE PENNY, and in the lower FARTHING, in coloured letters, the portions to the right and left being intercepted by the exterior frame on the one side, and by the line of an interior frame on the other. Within this latter is the inscription,

“FOREIGN POST CARD, . . .

“FOR COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE POSTAL UNION,”

below which, introduced into the interior frame is, “THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.”*

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in red-brown on buff card. The official sanction was given to the plate on 13th March, 1875.

SYNOPSIS.

ONE PENNY-FARTHING.

1st July, 1875. Red-brown on buff.

* These cards were at first marked to be sold at 1s. 4d. per dozen, but the price was subsequently changed to 1s. 3d. per dozen, and they could be purchased singly at the Post-offices at $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. each. They have now become obsolete in consequence of the alteration in the “Postal Union” card rates.

III.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION POST CARDS.

WHEN the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, by which the "Universal Postal Union" was established in 1878, came into operation on the 1st April, 1879, two post cards were issued, one of the value of ONE PENNY for countries within class A of the Union, to which the single letter rate was 2½d., and another of the value of THREE HALFPENCE for countries within class B of the Union, to which the single letter rate was 4d. Both of these cards were designed and printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.

1. THE ONE PENNY.

FIRST ISSUE.

Date of Issue, 1st April, 1879.

DESIGN.—The card measures $4\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 122×87 millimètres. The design of the stamp in the right upper corner is the diademed profile of Queen Victoria to the left, on a solid octagonal ground formed by the intersection of two rectangular frames. On a tablet at the top is POSTAGE, and on a similar tablet below is ONE PENNY. The inscription on the card is



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
GREAT BRITAIN (GRANDE BRETAGNE)
POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in brown on a thin card of a light buff colour.

The date of the *imprimatur* of this card is the 16th December, 1878, and although the inscription was afterwards modified, yet only one continuous issue of it is recognized.

They were sold at 1s. per packet of 12, or singly at 1d. each.

SECOND ISSUE.

Date of Issue, October, 1879.

DESIGN.—The general design is identical with that of the previous issue; but in deference to the wishes expressed by several patriotic Irish members in the House of Commons the inscription was altered as follows:

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND (GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRELANDE).

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

IMPRESSION, &c.—The impression, &c., was identical with that of the last issue.

SYNOPSIS.

ONE PENNY.

Inscription, "Great Britain."

1st April, 1879. Brown on light buff.

Inscription, "Great Britain and Ireland."

October, 1879. Brown on light buff.

2. THE THREE HALFPENCE.

Date of Issue, 1st April, 1879.

DESIGN.—The size of the card is the same as that of the one penny. The design of the stamp in the right upper corner is the diademed profile of Queen Victoria to the left, on a solid circular ground enclosed in an upright pointed oval frame, on which is inscribed POSTAGE on the top and THREE HALFPENCE in the lower part. The inscription on the card is



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

GREAT BRITAIN (GRANDE BRETAGNE)

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in brown on a thin card of a light buff colour; the date of the *imprimatur* is 16th December, 1878.

SYNOPSIS.

THREE HALFPENCE.

Inscription, "Great Britain."

1st April, 1879. Brown on light buff.

IV.

PRIVATE POST CARDS.

In June, 1872, the Postmaster-General issued the following notice:*

“Notice is hereby given, that on and after the 17th June private cards may be taken to the office of the Inland Revenue to be impressed with a halfpenny stamp under conditions which may be learnt on application at the office; and when thus impressed, but not otherwise (for adhesive stamps will not be accepted in payment of the postage), they may be transmitted through the post between places in the United Kingdom under the following regulations:

“1. The words ‘Post Card’ and ‘The address only to be written on this side’ must be printed on the front of the cards, as in the case of the official post card, the Royal Arms being omitted; but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed on the face of the cards.

“2. Nothing whatever may be attached to the cards.

“3. The cards must not be folded, nor may they be cut or in any way altered after they have been impressed with the halfpenny stamp at the office of Inland Revenue.

“4. On the back of the cards any communication, whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed; but such communication must not extend to the front side.

“Private cards will not be supplied to postmasters for sale to the public. It must be distinctly understood that no cards, except those which are impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the office of the Inland Revenue, can pass through the post for the

* The Postmaster-General, in his annual report for the year ending 31st March, 1873, says that the permission to allow the public to send in their own cards to be stamped was granted in compliance with the urgent solicitations of the Committee of Wholesale and Retail Stationers of the United Kingdom; but, he adds, “of this concession little use has been made.”

postage of a halfpenny if they have anything of the nature of a letter written upon them. There seems to be much misapprehension on this point."

DESIGN.—The die for embossing the stamp on cards under the foregoing regulations was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. from the original die of Mr. W. Wyon, and consists of the diademed profile of the Queen to the left in white relief on a plain solid ground of colour in an upright oval, outlined by a single white line, and measuring $22\frac{1}{2} \times 18$ mm. Within the oval, and in curves following the contour, is HALFPENNY above the head, and POSTAGE below it, in white block letters, the two words being separated by a conventional ornament.



The regulation size of the cards is $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches (120 by 72 millimètres).

IMPRESSION.—The impression is embossed in white relief on a pink ground of the same tone of colour as that of the one penny envelope.

At first the word "TO" appeared on the face of the cards, but this is now for the most part omitted.

There are many varieties, dependent on the mode in which the legend is printed, the ornamental character of the type employed, and the lines under the word "POST CARD." The authorities do not object to these provided that they are not too obtrusive; but one singular instance of departure from the official regulations is worthy of being recorded. A supply of cards was presented for stamping by the Chiswick Press, of 21, Cook's Court, Chancery Lane, on which highly ornamented capitals were employed for the letters commencing the words POST and CARD, between which the Royal Arms were introduced, which is contrary to the regulations. By some accidental oversight the cards were admitted, the presence of the Arms being doubtless overlooked at the time; and as the precedent was once established in favour of the Chiswick Press, the authorities continue to stamp for it cards similarly printed,

though they refuse to depart from their regulations in favour of any other applicants. There are two varieties of these cards, dependent on the lettering, but the Royal Arms are found in both.

Coloured and fancy printing is admitted, and a long list of varieties might be made by enumerating varieties of lettering, lines, ornaments, devices, and colours, but they do not appear to us to require any further notice.

The following regulations emanating from the Inland Revenue Office are those still in force.

“Regulations under which post cards brought by the public to this office can be impressed with halfpenny postage stamps.

“1. They must be white, *i.e.* not tinted in any way.

“2. They must be of the same dimensions as the official post card; viz., $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

“3. They must not be thinner than the official post card; viz., 120 to the inch; nor thicker than the telegraph card; viz., 60 to the inch.

“4. The words ‘POST CARD’ and ‘THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE’ must be printed on the face, as on the official post card, but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed on the face of the card.

“5. All cards must be sent in with evenly cut edges.

“6. At the right upper corner of the face of the card a space measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top edge of the card and 1 inch from the side must be left for the stamp, and this space must be free from print both on the face and the underside.

“Not more than 10,000 can be received in one warrant.

“Not less than 480 can be stamped.”

No card other than the official post cards, or private cards stamped as above, is allowed to pass under a halfpenny stamp if it bears any communication in the nature of a letter, except it be a “circular letter;” *i.e.* a letter having internal evidence that it is intended for transmission in identical terms to several persons, and the whole or greater part of which is produced by means of ordinary type, engraving, lithography, or any other mechanical process. In this latter case the “circular letter may have an adhesive stamp of one halfpenny affixed to it, or the postage may be paid at the Post-office.”

V.

ESSAYS, PROOFS, AND TRIALS.

FOLLOWING the order of arrangement laid down at the commencement of this treatise, we will now proceed to give a short description of some of the principal essays, proofs, and trials of postage stamps and envelopes, which we consider are chiefly interesting in a historical point of view, as tending to throw light not only on the gradual growth of the system, but also on certain stages in the production of the stamps ultimately issued to the public.

To attempt to give a complete list of all these would not only exceed the limits of the present work, but would prove a wearisome and fruitless task, and unnecessary for the object we have in view; but we shall endeavour to meet the wishes of those who take an interest in the subject by chronicling such specimens as are usually met with in collections, while at the same time we shall duly record some others which have come under our notice, and, after careful examination, appear to deserve mention. But very few accounts of English essays have ever been published in works treating of philatelic subjects; these few we have consulted;* but our principal sources of information have been derived from the examination of the contents of

* "A Descriptive List of the Envelopes, Labels, and Embossed Stamps suggested before the issue of the vignette Mulready Envelope." *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol. i. p. 52.

"Addenda to Mount Browne's Catalogue." By Dr. Viner. *Ibid.*, pp. 37, 56.

"Notes on the Proofs and Essays of Great Britain." By Mr. Philbrick. *Ibid.*, vol. vi. p. 180.

Mount Browne's Catalogue. Fifth Edition. March, 1864.

Dr. J. E. Gray's Catalogue. Edition 1866, pp. 155-162.

Magasin Pittoresque. Par M. N. Rondot. 1863.

the best English and foreign collections, and all the specimens described have been examined by us unless the contrary is expressly stated. In describing these specimens we have not thought it necessary to overload our pages by entering into the minutest descriptive details; it has appeared to us to be sufficient to give only so much as would serve clearly to identify the individual specimen, adding to this the mention of any specially interesting features.

But very few essays date from a period much anterior to the agitation for postal reform, commenced in the year 1837, and which culminated in the passing of the Act of 1839, establishing a uniform penny postage: the reason being one which we have previously stated, that up to this period the Post-office was regarded by the public as a mysterious but *almost* perfect machine. When the agitation fairly set in there was no lack of advice from crotchet-mongers; and when, after the Act was passed, the Lords of the Treasury addressed their invitation to "artists, men of science, and the public in general," "My Lords" were overwhelmed with suggestions on all sides. Very few of the authors of these, with one notable exception, that of the late Mr. C. Whiting, gave to their suggestions any practical form by sending in actual specimens of stamps or envelopes of which they proposed the adoption. Even the "Mulready" envelope finally adopted, and to which the first prize offered by "My Lords" was awarded, was sent in to the Treasury in the form of a pencil sketch. Ninety-nine per cent. of the rest were consigned to the Treasury waste-paper basket, and were never heard of afterwards. It is true that several designs appear to have been sent in subsequently, but so soon as public opinion had declared itself in favour of the adhesive stamps of one penny and twopence, and the embossed envelopes of the like values, there was nearly an end to any further proposals, as all saw that the Government had availed itself of the highest talent and skill that could be found, and that it was fruitless to endeavour to disturb a state of things with which every one appeared to be content.

During the subsequent period there has been nothing to call for any essays. England has not suffered from political convulsions. The Sovereign who gave her assent to the Act for establishing the uniform penny postage still sits on the throne; and whenever the Post-office authorities have been in need of an additional stamp, the contractors who supplied the others, than whom none better could be found, were ready to minister to their wants. It was only when it became known that the line-engraved stamps were to be replaced by surface-printed ones, that any fresh essays were submitted to the authorities, and those on a very limited scale, as it could scarcely be said there was an open competition.

The other branch of our subject, viz., the proofs and trials made in the course of producing the stamps and envelopes as ultimately issued for public use, seems to us to possess peculiar interest, inasmuch as these proofs and trials serve to mark the different phases through which the stamp has passed before it has become perfectly developed. This part of our subject we believe we have been so fortunate as to be able to make comparatively complete, or at all events sufficiently so to show how the results achieved have been attained.*

With these prefatory remarks we will now proceed with an account of those essays which belong to the history of the agitation for postal reform initiated in 1837, and the proposals submitted for the approval of the Government and the public in that and the succeeding years. As it is not possible to classify these in the chronological order of their production, when the

* Engravers and printers as a rule keep specimen proofs on plate, India paper, or on card from every die they produce. Proofs of this kind are called *die* proofs, and are usually taken during the progress of the work to judge of the results obtained, and to enable them to form an opinion of the workmanship and of any modifications which have been introduced, or which may be deemed necessary. When the die is completed, proofs are frequently taken before it is hardened, and also after it has been hardened. When the plate is prepared, the proofs taken to decide on colours and other details are called *plate proofs*, to distinguish them from those taken from the original die.

proposals emanated from the same person at various periods, we shall describe them under the names of their several authors wherever they are known to us.

When we come to treat the second branch of our subject we shall adopt a different mode, and endeavour to follow as far as possible the general plan of this work, only departing from it where it is necessary in order to avoid prolixity, or where convenience may require.

SECTION I.

(1) *ESSAYS AND PROPOSALS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO 1840.*

CHARLES WHITING.

THE late Mr. Charles Whiting, the eminent printer of Beaufort House, in the Savoy, Strand, London, was one of the first who made proposals to the Post-office authorities to reduce the rates for the conveyance of printed matter, and for that purpose to employ stamped envelopes, or "Go Frees."* These were proposed by him as an experiment, which, if successful, were to be followed by applying them to written matter. †

Mr. Whiting married the widow of Sir William Congreve, the inventor of the original machines used at Somerset House for embossing in colour. Sir William Congreve was also the patentee of a process of compound plate printing, whereby impressions were struck off in two or more colours at a single operation of the press, which was effected by two or more plates fitting into each other with great exactness, so as to form one complete design.

Compound printing was extensively known from the circumstance of its being employed in printing the Government labels used for denoting the duties on patent medicines. For some years these labels had been printed in two colours, the second

* These must not be confounded with a trial obliterating circular stamp in black, with GO FREE across the face, and POST OFFICE round the outer edge, on a plain engine-turned groundwork resembling an ordinary office seal, the whole being enclosed in an outer circle of dots. It is frequently found on the covers bearing the name of Mr. Wyld, subsequently described.

† *Second Report of Committee on Postage*, 21st June, 1838. Questions 11,253-4.

of which was added to the stamp by passing it through the press a second time. Work thus done always shows its origin, and has a tendency to get out of "register," as it is termed by printers, for the second printing scarcely ever comes exactly in its proper place. By the Congreve system this defect was impossible, and an accuracy as well as clearness before unattainable was secured.

Mr. Whiting made his first proposals to the authorities some time previous to March, 1830; but they were not entertained, nor have any specimens of the "Go Frees" been met with by us.

In March, 1830, he renewed his proposals, and subsequently submitted them to Lord Althorp, Sir Robert Peel, and Mr. Spring Rice. He failed, however, to secure the support of any of these Chancellors of the Exchequer, the Stamp Office declaring that the scheme was not practicable, so far as that department was concerned.

In the specimens of covers laid before the Committee of Post-office Inquiry in 1837 by Mr. Dickinson, there is internal evidence that the designs were the work of Mr. Whiting; but so far as he was personally concerned he does not seem to have taken any further steps until he appeared as a witness before the Select Committee of 1838, when he produced specimens printed by him "as medicine labels" in two colours, most probably by the Congreve process. He added that he proposed to print the stamps on bands as used for newspapers, and not to paste or affix them as labels on envelopes.

We have not been able to meet with any specimens of the stamps submitted by him to the Committee; but it would appear that they were similar to the "Go Frees."

In the course of the proceedings Mr. Whiting also produced to the Committee a folio sheet of paper bearing impressions of two separate stamps, the use of which he advocated. They were printed on paper specially watermarked "Post Office," and did not resemble the "Go Frees." The design was an oblong, printed in colours; but the report of the proceedings of the

Committee does not mention what the colours were, and with the most diligent search we have failed in finding specimens of these stamps. The Blue Book, our sole source of information, states that one bore the legend "POST OFFICE—printed matter under one ounce, price 1d;" and the other, "POST OFFICE—written matter under one drachm, price 2d."

The agitation set on foot by Sir Rowland Hill for the establishment of the Penny Postage has been noticed in our introductory chapters, as also how the Mercantile Committee, by its Post Circular and other publications, contributed to stimulate the proceedings of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and to influence the course taken by the Ministry of the day in conceding penny postage.

Mr. Whiting was one of the prominent supporters of the movement, and from time to time produced from the resources of his establishment various practical suggestions to aid in carrying out Sir Rowland Hill's plans, illustrated by specimens of the graphic art, designed either to show the method by which the postage might be collected, or to meet some objections which arose during the discussions. Several of these specimens were circulated by the Mercantile Committee during the progress of the agitation.

After the Act for establishing the penny postage had passed, Mr. Whiting, in response to the advertisement of the Lords of the Treasury, addressed to "artists, men of science, and the public in general," himself contributed a paper, illustrated by specimens, which was adjudged worthy to receive one of the premiums awarded by the Treasury, one component element of Mr. Whiting's suggestions being the use of the Congreve embossing press, which gave the relief in white on a ground of colour, similarly to that subsequently made use of for embossing the penny envelopes at Somerset House.

We will now proceed to describe such of Mr. Whiting's designs as we have been able to examine, taking first one which was submitted to the Lords of the Treasury in 1839.

Adhesive Label.

1. The Royal Crown in a white upright oval disc was surrounded by three concentric oval frames, within a square measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or 23 mm., the upper and lower ends of the outermost oval line being intercepted by the lines of the square. The innermost oval frame bore an engine-turned pattern of white lines forming small festoons, the outermost a similar pattern in lattice-work, while on the middle one, which was solid, was inscribed, in the upper part, PRINCIPLE SUGGESTED, and in the lower, BRAUFORT HOUSE, in white letters. In small ovals on either side were the letters v.r., on white ground, in script capitals, and in small coloured squares at the four angles were A, S, C, W, in white, one in each square. The spandrels were filled in with horizontal lines.

The die was engraved on metal, and arranged on the Congreve principle to print one or two colours as desired. When arranged for two colours the impression showed four lanceolate blotches radiating from the centre (where they nearly met) towards the angles, with four triangular ornaments between them, giving a sort of harlequin appearance when striking contrasts of colours were used.

The stamps were surface-printed on white unwatermarked wove paper, and also on thick card, in blue. Impressions were also taken in two colours—blue and red, green and red, and black and red.

Embossed Stamp.

2. The head of the Queen to the right,* without diadem, with a pendent curl behind, in two concentric oval frames, the inner composed of an engine-turned pattern of white lines, similar

* This essay is remarkable as being an infringement of the numismatic rule adopted in Great Britain of representing the Queen looking to the left, each Sovereign looking in an opposite direction to the immediately preceding one. We know of no instance of the Queen being portrayed on a stamp actually issued looking in any other direction than to the left, except in the cases of some of the Colonial stamps.

to that in the inner oval of the label last described, the outer of an interlacing pattern, similar to that of the frame of the current one penny envelope stamp, interrupted at the top by the word PAID, in large shaded block letters. The oval measured externally $1\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch, or 30 by 33 mm. This design was embossed in white relief on coloured ground on unwatermarked wove paper, also on thick cardboard. The following colours are found : blue, of deep, full, and clear azure shades ; green ; rose-pink ; carmine ; orange-yellow.

Harwood's Envelope.

3. A notion being very prevalent, especially amongst persons engaged in business, that it was desirable for the letter and the address to be on the same piece of paper, to evidence its transmission by the post, many of the competitors produced covers, inside which the letter might be written, and which when folded would show the frank stamp on the outside. With this object in view Mr. Whiting prepared the present cover.

The design consisted of an elaborate rectangular transverse oblong. The inner space for the address, measuring $4\frac{3}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, was covered with a small-patterned engine-turned ground, enclosed in a triple frame about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, ornamented with a groundwork of a larger pattern. The letters V.R. in florid monogram were introduced in ornamented circles at the upper left and lower right angles, the other angles being filled by similar circles enclosing bunches of rose, shamrock, and thistle. These circles were connected on the side margins of the frame by scroll-fashioned ornaments, and between them in the upper margin was HARWOOD'S, and in the lower ENVELOPE, both in large shaded block letters. The whole design measured $8\frac{3}{4}$ by 7 inches.

The impression was in colour, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

This plate was prepared to execute an order given to Mr. Whiting by a stationer named Harwood, and the words "Harwood's Envelope" were inserted in the plate to show how any

required inscription might be effected. The copies used for the order are in green, the other colours are trials.

We have described these essays in the above order because, as submitted by Mr. Whiting, the three designs were impressed on one sheet of paper.

On the one side the design of the cover (No. 3) extended over nearly the whole of the surface of the sheet, leaving but a small blank margin; on the reverse side to the right, where when folded the stamp would come, the label (No. 1) was impressed, and in the left upper corner the embossed stamp (No. 2) was struck. On the face of the cover was printed in black, "SPECIMEN OF ENVELOPE, STAMP, AND ADHESIVE LABEL suggested by Charles Whiting to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury as exemplifying his suggestions for carrying out the mechanical requirements of a cheap postage.

We have seen the following combinations :

| COVER. | EMBOSSED STAMP. | ADHESIVE LABEL. |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Red-brown | Blue | Blue and red |
| " | " | Green and red |
| Rose | " | " " |
| Blue | Rose-pink | " " |

We now resume the consideration of the stamps, or the adhesive labels, as they were then termed.

Adhesive Labels.

4. A large figure 1 in an upright oval, with PENNY in a curve, enclosed in an oval frame, within a rectangle nearly square, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, or 32 by $31\frac{1}{2}$ mm., flanked on each side by V.R. in small script capitals. A narrow reticulated border extends round the rectangle except where intercepted by the oval, and within small squares at each angle of it is the numeral 1. In the oval frame is the inscription NOT TO EXCEED in the upper part, and HALF OUNCE in the lower. The oval frame is composed of an engine-turned linear pattern, showing in bicolour printing the words POST OFFICE, in large block letters.

The impression was in bicolour on white wove unwatermarked paper, also on white card, and is found as follows :

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Groundwork red, lettering blue | } | on paper. |
| „ black „ „ | | |
| „ green „ „ | } | on card. |
| „ blue „ „ | | |

5. The design consists of a small circular disc in red, in an upright oval black disc, round which are three concentric oval borders, all enclosed in an ornamental square black framing interrupted by the oval at the top and bottom. A single line extends round the whole rectangular frame, which measures $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, or 34 mm. square. In the interior oval is OUNCE, with " $\frac{1}{2}$ " above and "1d." below; in the upper part of the oval band POST OFFICE PERMIT, in Roman capitals, and in the lower to CARRY MATTER NOT EXCEEDING IN WEIGHT, in small block letters. All the inscriptions are in white on particoloured ground, the die being on the Congreve principle, printing sixteen irregularly shaped red blotches radiating from the oval framing enclosing the inside black oval:

The impression was in black, with red blotches, on stout white wove unwatermarked paper.

This label was circulated attached to the left upper corner of a printed circular headed, "The fears of the paper-makers and stationers about collecting postage by means of stamps allayed." The circular, after calling attention to Sir Rowland Hill having recommended the use of small adhesive stamps, enlarged on their advantage, and combated the idea that any government monopoly of stamped covers and paper injurious to the paper trade would be created by their adoption.

6. This design consists of a small white transverse oval, on which is "1d." in Italic type, surrounded by two concentric oval frames—the inner with white engine-turned lines, the outer coloured with POST PAID above and BEAUFORT HOUSE beneath, in white letters; the whole in an oblong rectangular frame, measuring $\frac{5}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, or 16 by 14 mm.

The impression is bicoloured on the Congreve principle, and so arranged as to show four oval loops radiating to the angles. The paper is white wove and unwatermarked. The colours in which the impression is struck are red and black, blue and red, and red and blue.

7. This design consists of a small circle, in which is "ld." in white on a bicoloured ground, enclosed in a white square, in which are the words POST above, PAID below. The letters V.R. flank the circle.

The impression is in bicolour, like No. 6, and on similar paper.

The colours in which the impression is found struck are red and black, blue and red, and red and blue.

7a. Nos. 6 and 7 are printed one under the other, and beneath are three similar labels of nearly identical patterns—the one nearest No. 7, inscribed BEAUFORT HOUSE, in a circle; the two lower ones showing merely the Congreve dies, with varieties of ornament in similar colours to those already described. The whole forms a long label with curved ends in a plain rectangular outer coloured frame, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch., or 98 by 19 mm.

In some specimens the Congreve groundwork of the upper label is repeated in the two lower ones, with the addition of a small reticulated pattern in white lines over the whole surface.

8. The design consists of an oblong, measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or 98 by 19 mm., showing seven circles, of varied patterns of lathe work, side by side, having as central devices respectively—the first c, in Roman capitals; the second, w in Old English type; the third, w in German text; the fourth and fifth, ow in interlaced Italics; the sixth, o r w in similar letters, while the last is left blank. They are all printed in bicolour, on a groundwork of four lanceolate ovals, and four irregular figures extending beyond the circles.

The impression is on stout white wove unwatermarked paper, in bicolours of black and red.

9. On a sheet of white wove unwatermarked paper, Nos. 6 and 7 to the left, No. 4 with No. 5 below on the right, are all printed in black and red.

Embossed Stamps.

10. Embossed head of Queen Victoria to the right, as above described (No. 2), struck in colour, in the left upper corner of small-sized envelopes, without any device on flap, and on half-sheets of white wove unwatermarked note paper.

The impressions are in white relief, embossed on ground of rose-pink, green, and dark blue.

On one of the impressions in rose-pink Sir Rowland Hill has written the following observation: "There is too much power in the engine-work; it should not be raised *up at all*, to prevent its being electrotyped."

One of the green impressions is embossed on the "Improved Safety Envelope (registered November 18th, 1840, by Mitchell and Son, 39, Charing Cross*)," and on this Sir Rowland Hill has added a memorandum of the price, "9d. per dozen."

The deep blue impression, from which our description is taken, is numbered by hand, "enclosure 1326," and in the place usually occupied by the stamp, the essay No. 7, with the lower label BEAUFORT HOUSE, is pasted on.

11. The design was identical with No. 10, save that the word PAID was suppressed, and the space occupied by it left blank. A third oval band was added round the whole, and the stamp measured $1\frac{7}{8}$ by $1\frac{9}{8}$ inch, or 34 by 39 mm.

The impression was struck in relief, on a black ground, on yellowish-white wove unwatermarked paper.

12. The design consists of an upright oval with plain ground in a wide oval frame, ornamented with engine-turned linear

* This date is interesting, as showing that the design was submitted after the failure of the Mulready envelope, and probably before the issue of the one penny embossed envelopes.

designs. In the upper part of the central oval, on an engine-turned ground, are the letters *v.r.*, separated by a Crown, below which is a curved solid band with the inscription *POST OFFICE*. In the lower part *ld.* on a solid ground of colour, with *HALF OZ.* on an incurved tablet below. The stamp measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or 37 by $44\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

It is embossed in relief on white wove unwatermarked paper, without colour, and also with blue and with pink grounds. In this latter colour it is found struck on the left upper corner of envelopes, and also on Harwood's envelope (No. 3).

13. The design consists of the Royal Arms and motto in an oval-form garter, within a collar of the Order of the Garter, with the badge pendent below, surmounted by a Crown and Lion as a crest; the whole in an engine-turned circular frame, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or 40 mm. in diameter.

It is struck in relief on white wove unwatermarked paper, without colour, and also on a blue ground, extending to the garter, which is on a solid ground of colour.

14. Embossed heads of the Queen and Prince Albert to the left in white relief, on a solid circular disc of colour, measuring $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, or 27 mm. in diameter. The Queen is represented with a diadem and a pendent curl behind.

The impression is in white relief on a blue ground, and is struck at each angle of the face of an envelope of white wove unwatermarked paper, without any inscriptions or device on the flap.

This essay—the only one known where the Queen and the Prince Consort are both represented—is of great beauty and exceptional rarity. The presence of the head of the Prince shows that it dates from about 1840. The copy from which this description is taken is one of the originals prepared for the Treasury, and which happened to be retained by Mr. Whiting, by whom it was presented to Mr. Philbrick.

Covers and Envelopes.

15. The design consists of an oblong engine-turned rectangular frame, measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 103 by 72 mm., within which is an oval engine-turned frame, the interior being covered with a minute pattern of similar work. In the spandrels are straight tablets; those in the two upper angles are inscribed with POST OFFICE and PERMIT in white block letters, and, on the upper edge of the oval, is a small oval with V.R. in monogram of florid Italica. In the lower labels are "PRICE 1^d" and " $\frac{1}{2}$ OUNCE" in white Roman capitals, with MATTER NOT TO EXCEED IN WEIGHT in smaller lettering in a tablet between them. The impression is on white wove unwatermarked paper, in black, green, lavender, and blue.

This essay, printed in blue, appeared in the *Post Circular*, No. 12, 30th April, 1839, and was also extensively distributed by the Mercantile Committee as a specimen (the word SPECIMEN being printed in the border above the V.R.), on a half-sheet of paper, with a strongly worded appeal printed on the back, setting forth the advantages of a uniform penny post, and demonstrating that such stamps, especially if printed on peculiar paper, such for instance as "Dickinson's," would be practically secure against forgery.

It is highly interesting as an illustration of one of the modes adopted to impress the public with the feasibility of Sir Rowland Hill's proposals.

16. The design consists of an oblong frame, measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, or 122 by 91 mm., to be printed on the face of an envelope, the centre part showing an oblong white space for the address, with canted angles, surrounded by a frame of enriched scroll-work and foliate ornaments, with groups of allegorical figures at the upper angles, and marginal wreaths of foliage and fruit surround the centre. In the frame above the space for the address is a small tablet, and in the space below is a cherub above an elongated oval tablet. The whole is on an engine-

turned groundwork of a minute pattern, and is surrounded by an exterior frame of two plain lines.

The impression is in blue, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

16a. Same as the last in every respect, save that the space for the address, and the tablets above and below it, are filled in with a solid ground of colour.

The impression is also in blue.

17. The design is of irregular shape, formed by a circle $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, superposed on a transverse oblong, with incurved angles, measuring 3 by 2 inches. On each side, intersecting the larger circle, is a smaller one of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter, that on the left having in the centre a group of heraldic emblems, and that on the right v.r. in monogram of ornate Italic capitals. The whole is filled in with an engine-turned groundwork of various patterns.

The impression is in blue, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

On the same sheet from which our description of this essay is taken are impressions of the stamp No. 1, in red and blue, and in blue.

18. The design is a rectangular-shaped transverse oblong, measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, composed of a minute diamond-shaped pattern of engine-turned work, enclosed in a frame $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide, composed of curved interlaced lines, with a floriform ornament resembling a Tudor rose in each angle.

The impression is in colour, on white wove unwatermarked paper. The following colours are found: pale and deep ochre-yellow, red, pale blue.

18a. Similar to the last, but the pattern of the groundwork and border is slightly modified, and in the angles are conventional ornaments with flowers.

The impression is on similar paper, and is in a pale shade of blue.

19. *The London and Westminster Review*, as has been before mentioned, contained, in its issue for February, 1840, an article on the New System of Postage. To this article were appended specimen sheets of various designs, and amongst others some of the principal of those prepared by Mr. Whiting. On these sheets we find specimens of relief engraving, and also of "Patent dry coloured embossing and dry stamping without colours, as practised at the Stamp Office."

These include :

First, impressions of the "Post Office Permit," No. 15 above described, with a transverse oval device of engine-turned work with "1d." in an inner circle; two circular designs of elaborate engine-turned work, with "No" and a space left to fill in the numeral; a larger but similar design with no inscription, and a head of Mercury with caduceus in a circular medallion, all with ornamental borders, and printed in black on white paper.

Second, a large oblong design of geometrical engine-turned work, with border containing a scroll formed of ovals, circles, and conventional ornaments, with two others of smaller dimensions, all printed in black on the same sheet of plain white paper.

On another sheet, printed on the Congreve principle, with combination plates, are Nos. 4, 5, and 7*a*, in red and black, below which are Nos. 12 and 13, both struck in white relief on blue ground and in plain white relief.

20. An article by Robert Hunt, on Compound Plate printing, was published in the *Art Journal* in 1848. This article explained the art of embossing in relief with coloured ground, and that of printing from compound plates in several colours at one impression after the Congreve system.

To illustrate these processes Mr. Whiting printed some of his most remarkable designs on a sheet of cardboard inserted in the above-named periodical.

The designs are enclosed in a highly ornamented embossed frame, surrounded by a rectangular exterior border of engine-

turned work printed in green, measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches, or 223 by 279 mm. Within the frame is an impression of the oval die of the Queen's head to the right, No. 2, printed in carmine, below which the essay No. 1 is twice printed, once in blue and red, and once in plain blue, and below the whole is No. 17 in plain blue. On the reverse is an oblong specimen of printing from Congreve plates in red and green, with the inscriptions, PRINTED BY CHARLES WHITING, BEAUFORT HOUSE, STRAND, LONDON, FOR PROTECTION AGAINST FORGERY. PATENT COMPOUND PLATE PRINTING.

The above specimen, which shows the various styles and the beauty of Mr. Whiting's work to great advantage, has now unfortunately become rare.

Reprints.

When the interest attaching to original proofs and essays first led collectors to inquire for specimens of Mr. Whiting's productions, as none of those originally taken remained, new impressions were, in the years 1862-3, struck off from some of the plates, before they perished in the great fire which destroyed Beaufort House. These reprints are easily distinguishable from the originals by the tones of colour employed, being much brighter and more vivid than in the originals. They are all struck on white wove unwatermarked paper.

The following is a list of those which we have seen :

- No. 2. Embossed head of the Queen.
Vermilion, deep red, green, ultramarine blue.
- No. 12. 1d. large oval, embossed in relief.
White, ultramarine blue, rose, deep red, green.
- No. 14. Queen and Prince Albert.*
Orange-yellow.
- No. 15. Post Office permit.
Rose, red-brown.
- No. 16. Cover, with allegorical figures and cherub.
Ultramarine blue.

* This reprint is on cream-coloured paper, and shows the outer margin of the die.

CHARLES KNIGHT.

Mr. Charles Knight, of Ludgate Hill, London, publisher to the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, under the auspices of which the *Penny Magazine* was established, took considerable interest in the movement set on foot in 1834 for the abolition of the "Taxes on Knowledge," and the reduction of the charges on the transmission of newspapers through the post. He appears to have suggested that newspapers should be allowed to pass through the post for one penny each, and that the postage might be collected by means of stamped wrappers.

The proposed alteration in the Newspaper Tax was not carried out until the year 1837, when the tax on an ordinary-sized newspaper having been reduced to one penny, the impressed stamp carrying with it free transit by the post, the proposition of Mr. Knight naturally fell through, though it does not appear that it ever went further than a mere suggestion, or assumed the form of any direct proposition, much less of any actual design.

STEAD.

Mr. Stead, an inhabitant of Yarmouth, appears, from the evidence of Mr. Louis, formerly Superintendent of the Mails, given before the Committee on Postage, in 1829, to have proposed to the Post Office the principle of collecting postage by means of stamps; but this proposal never seems to have taken any more tangible form, or resulted in specimens of any kind being produced.

DR. J. E. GRAY.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., of the British Museum, states, in the preface to his *Catalogue of Postage Stamps*, that he believes he was the first who proposed, in 1834, the system of a small uniform rate of postage to be prepaid by stamps, and that it was "in fact the mere application of the system used with regard to newspapers to letters in general." He also adds that

he found there was no chance of getting attention to the plans he suggested without he was able to devote the whole of his time and attention to the development of them, which his other engagements precluded him from doing. It is clear, therefore, that his suggestions never took the form of any absolute design.

COVERS AND ENVELOPE PROPOSED FOR THE LONDON DISTRICT POST.

In their Ninth Report, made in July, 1837, the Commissioners of Post-office Inquiry recommended the adoption of covers of the value of one penny and twopence, in which letters not exceeding 1 oz. and 6 oz. respectively might be enclosed for free transmission within the limits of the London District post. It was proposed by the Committee that these covers should be made of "Dickinson" paper, and specimens of the covers, and of an envelope constructed out of one of them, were annexed to their report. In consequence of the appointment, in the month of December, 1837, of a Select Committee to examine the whole subject, the recommendations of the Committee of Post-office Inquiry were not carried out, and the designs proposed by it were not made use of.

The specimens attached to the report were three in number, and are—

First. An elaborate engine-turned rectangular design, measuring 177 mm. wide by 218 mm. deep, on half a sheet of letter-sized white "Dickinson" paper, traversed horizontally by ten blue parallel threads, inserted at distances varying from one-half to three-quarters of an inch apart. Within this engine-turned design is a circular band of similar work, but of another pattern, 20 mm. wide and 93 mm. in diameter, the interior of which is left as a blank space for the address. This circular band is divided into equal segments by the introduction of four transverse ovals, opposite each corner of the rectangle, the major axes of which measure 47 mm. These ovals on one side extend into the engine-turned work of the interior of the design, and on the other are partially superposed on two smaller engine-turned ovals. The large ovals which intercept the circular border are designed as

follows: The upper left and the lower right show V.R. in script capitals, with a Crown between the letters, on a central white ground, and the inscription LONDON DISTRICT POST, in white block letters, in an exterior engine-turned border, the position of the words of the inscription being reversed in the two ovals. In the right upper oval and the left lower one, the letters V.R., separated by a Crown, occupy the centre on a white ground, while in the border of the former is introduced NOT EXCEEDING, in white block letters, on an engine-turned ground, and ONE OUNCE, ONE PENNY in coloured letters on a white ground. In the opposite oval the inscription is varied, by placing the words ONE OUNCE, in white block letters on an engine-turned ground, and NOT TO EXCEED ONE OUNCE, in coloured letters on a white ground.

The impression of the whole is in yellow-ochre.

Second. The second design attached to the report is an envelope, measuring 125 by 91 mm., formed out of the half-sheet just described. As the lozenge-form for the envelope is cut out of the half-sheet diagonally, the silk threads necessarily run across the face of the address space in a similar way.

Third. An engine-turned rectangular ornamental frame, 15 mm. wide, encloses the whole design, which is printed on a sheet of "Dickinson" paper. The frame measures externally 155 by 237 mm., and the interior is divided into three compartments of nearly equal size. The upper compartment is entirely covered with a *moiré* pattern in lathe-work. The middle one is traversed horizontally by four pairs of silk threads, and is left blank for the address, save that at the top is TWOPENCE, in large block letters, and in each angle is a design in the form of a quadrant. In the angles of the two upper quadrants are the letters V.R., in block letters, with a Crown between them, all in white, on a solid ground of colour, enclosed in a curved border of engine-turned work, with LONDON DISTRICT POST in two lines in white block-letters. In the two lower quadrants, the letters V.R. with the Crown are enclosed in engine-turned curved borders, with the inscription TO CARRY NOT EXCEEDING 6 OUNCES in three lines, in coloured block letters. The lower

compartment is covered with a *moiré* pattern, similar to the upper one, except at the lower portion, where an ornamental tablet is introduced with the inscription **POST OFFICE COVER**, in coloured block letters on a white ground.

The impression of this cover is in green.

These designs all bear on the face of them conclusive evidence of their origin in the printing establishment of Mr. Charles Whiting, and were probably submitted to the Committee by Mr. Dickinson in conjunction with Mr. Whiting.

JAMES WYLD.

Mr. James Wyld, of the Strand, London, map publisher and geographer to the Queen, submitted an envelope or cover to the Treasury in 1839, the design of which was produced and printed for him by Mr. Charles Whiting.

The design itself has been already fully described in the account of Mr. Whiting's essay No. 16, but as submitted by Mr. Wyld was modified in the following manner. A groundwork of horizontal lines was introduced into the space left for the address, and on the upper tablet was the inscription **POSTAGE PREPAID BY**, and in that below the cherub, **JAMES WYLD, GEOGRAPHER TO THE QUEEN**, all in white embossed letters on a solid ground of colour. The design was made about 3 mm. longer than the essay No. 16 above referred to, by the addition of four lines at each of the two ends, so that it measured 126 by 91 mm.

The impression was on a half sheet of white wove unwatermarked letter paper, folded as a cover. We believe that the plate was originally prepared by Mr. C. Whiting, at the instance of Mr. Wyld, and that Mr. Whiting himself submitted specimens of it without the inscription.

We have seen specimens printed in pale ochre, in blue, and in red.

In a copy before us, printed in pale ochre, the upper label is defaced by a circular obliterating stamp of $27\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in diameter, struck in black. This stamp has *V.R.* in Italic monogram in the centre on a white ground, enclosed in a solid coloured border,

with the inscription CANCELLED POST PAID in white block letters, the whole being surrounded by an external border of engine-turned work.

On other copies we find the circular obliterating stamp POST OFFICE GO FREE before described, struck on the upper tablet, and sometimes also on the face of the design in addition.

Specimens without these obliterating marks are not known in collections, which would lead to the inference that Mr. Wyld's proposals also included obliterating marks.

WILLIAM WYON.

Mr. William Wyon, A.R.A., Chief Engraver of Seals to the Queen and Engraver to the Mint, whose name is so well known as the author of the die for the head of Her Majesty on the embossed stamps, offered the design for an adhesive stamp consisting of a helmeted head of Britannia to the left, in a circle, within a square of $19\frac{1}{4}$ mm. In the circle above the head is POST OFFICE, and below the head $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ. ONE PENNY. Facing the head and within the circle are numbers composed of two, three, or four figures, the signification of which we are unable to explain, further than they appear to represent certain index numbers. The whole is engraved in anaglyptograph, and is struck on white hand-made unwatermarked paper, in black.

This essay is beautifully executed, and is of the highest degree of rarity. The specimen before us shows four of these stamps, disposed two and two, at distances of four millimetres apart, separated by lines, also in anaglyptograph, of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ millimetre broad.

J. W. PARKER.

In 1838 Mr. J. W. Parker, printer to the University of Cambridge, with a view to assist the movement in favour of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill, printed on half a sheet of letter paper a list of books published by him, on the reverse side of which was the address, "Mr. John W. Parker, Cambridge Bible Warehouse, West Strand, London," enclosed in a wide oblong frame, with the interior angles truncated, measuring about $4\frac{1}{2}$

by 3 inches, and composed of a diaper-patterned design. The colour of the impression was ochre-yellow.

This circular was stitched up in the pamphlet published by W. H. Ashurst, *Facts and Reasons, &c.*, and is found opposite to page 30 of the first, and to page 43 of the second edition.

SIEVIER.

Mr. Sievier, the eminent sculptor, in 1839 proposed the adoption of stamps with an embossed centre, such as the Queen's head, the Royal Arms, or any other device, surrounding the embossment, with a pattern in two or more colours.

The actual specimen submitted by him consists of an upright rectangle with incurved angles, measuring $1\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or 42 by 37 mm., within which is an oval with a white disc in the centre, on which is embossed a many-rayed star device in plain white relief. On a solid curved tablet above the circle is PENNY, and in another curved tablet below, POST, both in white block letters. The space between the circle and the oval is filled in with an engine-turned reticulated design, and that exterior to the oval with vertical lines.

The impression is in red-brown and blue, the latter being that nearer the circle, and so disposed as to show a scalloped exterior line, the tablets being also in blue. It is printed on a half-sheet of octavo white "Whatman" hand-made note paper, dated 1839. On the rest of the half-sheet is printed a description of the proposed plan, with an estimate of the cost of production—£30 per million on sheets to fold as a letter; £6 5s. per million as separate adhesives, with a guaranteed production of a million per day. Copies of the specimen were stitched up and circulated in No. 65 of the *London and Westminster Review*, together with specimens of the productions of Mr. C. Whiting and others.

CHEVERTON.

Mr. Cheverton, who, with Mr. Whiting and Mr. Sievier, submitted designs in response to the Treasury advertisement, was awarded one of the premiums.

We have not been able to see the design Mr. Cheverton sent in, but it is stated, in the *London and Westminster Review*, vol. xxxiii. p. 504, to have been "a plan full of originality." Mr. Cheverton "recommended an embossment of a female head of the greatest beauty, to be executed by Mr. Wyon, and stamped by a peculiar machinery of Mr. Cheverton's own, which would perform the process with great rapidity."

This is all we learn, and the only remark we make is, that the integral parts of this plan were carried out in the envelopes bearing the Queen's head, engraved by Mr. Wyon.

JAMES CHALMERS.

Mr. Chalmers, a bookseller and stationer of 4, Castle Street, Dundee, forwarded to the Mercantile Committee a proposal, dated 8th February, 1838, which appeared in the *Post Circular* of the 5th April following.

Mr. Chalmers' proposal was in substance that stamped slips should be printed at the Stamp Office on prepared paper, furnished with adhesive matter at the back, and issued to the public as required; that these should be affixed to the letters, and that the postmasters should stamp them across the face in course of transmission. He also contrasted the advantages of adhesive stamps over covers and envelopes.

Two specimens accompanied the proposal, consisting merely of square single-lined frames, measuring $\frac{11}{8}$ inches, or 18 mm., enclosing letter-press inscriptions in six lines, the one being, GENERAL POSTAGE. NOT EXCEEDING HALF AN OUNCE. ONE PENNY; and the other being similar, "one" being inserted in lieu of "half an," and "twopence" for "one penny." The editor appended a note to the effect that Mr. Hill did not limit his proposals to covers or envelopes, and that adhesive stamps were desirable as a method to serve public convenience.

Mr. Chalmers also prepared and sent to the Treasury a small 8vo sheet, a copy of which was stitched up with the *Post Circular* for 1838, containing virtually the same proposals, but with four similar letter-press specimens, disposed in two rows,

slightly varying in the wording, and reading, POST OFFICE under HALF OUNCE [ONE, TWO, THREE OZ.] weight ONE PENNY [2d., 4d., 6d.].

All the specimens were printed on plain white wove paper.

FORRESTER.

Samuel Forrester, officer of Excise at Falkirk, in a pamphlet consisting of ten 8vo pages, dated 14th December, 1839, laid before the Treasury his plan for carrying into effect the General Penny Postage. The main feature of his proposal consisted in allowing every papermaker to have his paper stamped for postage stamps by the Excise officers of the district who charged the duty on the paper at the mills, under various safeguards set forth in the pamphlet, which contained full details of the mode recommended by him for carrying out his plan. He proposed that these stamps should be impressed on folio, quarto, and octavo sheets, and specimens of such sheets were annexed to the pamphlet, on each of which was pasted a *fac simile* of the stamp, printed in lithography.

The design of this stamp, to be impressed on an 8vo sheet, was circular, formed by the inscriptions "EDINBURGH" at the top, and "No. 326 OCTAVO $\frac{1}{2}$ oz." being set round in a circle measuring about 35 mm. in diameter. Within the circle was 1ST QUAR.—ONE PENNY—2D JULY, 1840, the whole being in Roman capitals, save the value and size, which were in block letters. A lithographed copy of the design, on white wove unwatermarked paper, was cut round, and pasted on the quarter or 8vo sheet, in such a position that when it was folded the stamp appeared at the right upper corner of the address.

A second design was printed for the half or quarto sheet—QUARTO being substituted for OCTAVO, and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

The third design was similar—FOLIO and 1 oz. being substituted for the previous size and weight, and the value TWOPENCE for ONE PENNY. This was applied to an entire or folio sheet.

The interpretation of the design was as follows: EDINBURGH showed the collection where stamped; No. 326, the Excise

number of the mill where stamped; 1st Quar., the current quarter of the year when stamped; 2nd July, 1840, the day, month, and year when stamped. The stamps expressing the size of the sheet and weight allowed to be transmitted by the various sizes, any overweight could be charged additional postage, to be paid on delivery. He further proposed to change the colours at the various quarters of the year as a security against the use of illegal stamps.

The proposal does not appear to have found favour with the Treasury, but in principle some of the suggestions were identical with parts of the system adopted.

C. BISSAGAR.

A design bearing this name is before us. The letters V.R., in interlaced Italic capitals, fill a circular disc, covered with an arabesque groundwork in bicolour, and beneath the V.R. is C. BISSAGAR, INV. Round this disc is the inscription HALF OUNCE ONE PENNY, in Roman capitals, the whole forming a design bounded by an exterior circle, 1 inch or 25 mm. in diameter.

The impression, in two colours, blue and orange, is on white wove unwatermarked paper.

UNKNOWN.

1. A plain circular band, 25 mm. in diameter, external measurement, is inscribed GENERAL POST OFFICE, and is surmounted by the Royal Arms with Crown and supporters. This is enclosed within a large circle, 51 mm. in diameter, composed of two bands—the outer one with a zigzag ornamentation, and the inner one with the inscription ONE PENNY HALF OUNCE, in Roman capitals, on plain white ground. In the centre is a blank circular disc, 13 mm. in diameter, towards which coloured lines converge irregularly.

The impression is typographed, showing considerable indentation, and multicoloured shades, starting from the internal white disc with green, and running through orange to red,

and from dull violet to grey-blue in the outer border. It is struck on a half-sheet of rough white hand-made foolscap paper, watermarked with the name of the maker, J. Rump, 1833.

2. The Royal Arms with Crown surmounted by a Lion, and with supporters, is embossed in white relief on a solid ground of colour, enclosed in an upright rectangular frame with canted angles, measuring 1 by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, or 25 by 30 mm. Below the supporters is the Royal motto and heraldic emblems, while the bareness of the upper part of the design is somewhat relieved by the introduction of arabesque ornamentations.

The impression is struck in pink at the left upper corner of an ordinary envelope, and on the face of the copy before us is written, by Sir Rowland Hill, "If it were not for the engine-turning round them they could be electrotyped from paper."

3. The design consists of two concentric circles, the outer one having a diameter of $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, or 30 mm.; the inner one, a diameter of 26 mm. In the upper part, between the circles, is the inscription, in Roman capitals, GENERAL POSTAGE, and in the lower TWO PENCE, the intervals being filled in with diamond-shaped ornaments. Across the inner circle is *Not exc. one ounce*, in Italics, in a straight line; above is a star, and below "2d." The impression is in pale red-brown, and is in ordinary type, on white hand-made foreign-post "Whatman" paper.

On the copy before us is "USED" hand-stamped in black, showing the manner in which it was proposed to efface the stamp.

4. Within an oval band, inscribed with the motto of the Order of the Garter, the minor axis measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm., is the inscription V.R.—FREE, in two lines, and below JAN. 1840. JAN.—ONE OZ., also in two lines. The oval is surmounted by the Royal Crown, and underneath it is a bouquet composed of the heraldic emblems of the United Kingdom.

The design appears to have been intended for the face of a cover, a portion being marked out by a border 3 mm. wide; but

the specimen only shows the left upper angle in which the design above described is introduced. About three-quarters of an inch below the upper frame border there is a partial repetition of the border, above which is inserted the words in pencil, *INTENDED DISTRICT SIGNATURE*. The whole design is drawn by hand, in pen and Indian ink, on a piece of azure laid paper, and upon the specimen from which the description is taken Sir Rowland Hill has written, in pencil, *Acknowledge the receipt*.
R. H.

5. The Royal Arms, with supporters, motto, &c., designed in a spreading form, extending 39 mm. long by 16 high, lithographed in black on a sheet of coloured note paper, and so placed that when the sheet is folded in three the stamp appears in the right upper corner of the face. We have seen it on blue and on green paper, both chemically prepared, the obliteration being intended to be effected by the application of moisture (presumably acidulated), which when applied turns the blue paper white and the green paper yellow. The green specimen before us is numbered in pen and ink 2780/41.

6. Somewhat akin to the preceding is a design composed of the Royal Arms, with supporters, motto, &c., very erect, and finely engraved on copper. The impression is in blue on pink chemical paper, and also on yellow chemical paper. On each of the four sides is printed "One Penny," in small Roman type in red.

7. Within an upright rectangular engine-turned frame, measuring $1\frac{7}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, or 36 by 43 mm., are the Royal Arms, with Crown and supporters, and motto, enclosed in an irregularly oval-shaped fancy frame, all engraved in anaglyptograph. The impression is in deep blue on white wove unwater-marked paper. Above and below the arms are two small tablets, with the inscriptions *HALF OZ.* and *1 PENNY* in small white block letters on a red ground, and across each angle similar

tablets are also introduced, the two upper ones inscribed respectively **POST OFFICE** and **STAMP**, and the two lower ones to **CARRY NOT** and **EXCEEDING $\frac{1}{2}$ OZ.** The tablets in red are over-printed.

8. The design is somewhat similar to that last described, and consists of the Royal Arms, with Crown and supporters, engraved on the anaglyptic system, but embossed in relief within a rectangular transverse oblong frame, measuring $1\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, or 29 by 27 mm. In lieu of the motto **DIEU ET MON DROIT** the words **POST OFFICE STAMP** are substituted. The impression is in dark blue, on white wove unwatermarked paper; and in four sides of the frame are introduced tablets, with white block letters on a red ground subsequently printed. The inscriptions, commencing from the left side, read **NOT—EXCEEDING—HALF OUNCE.**

9. The design is very similar to that last described, the frame measuring 1 m. more in height. Within a double-lined interior frame with truncated angles are the Royal Arms, Crown, and supporters, together with the motto below, engraved on the anaglyptic system, and embossed in relief. The arms within the garter are in white relief, and the groundwork of the design is composed of a small dotted pattern. The impression is on white wove unwatermarked paper, and in the margins of the frame are, over-printed in red, commencing from the left, **POST—OFFICE—STAMP—ONE PENNY.** It is found printed in dark blue and also in green, both with red lettering.

10. A rather primitive design is before us, consisting of a small sheet of paper ruled by hand in squares of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, or 20 mm. each, in each of which is pasted a circular disc of thin green paper 17 mm. in diameter. There is nothing to explain the object of the design, which it would seem was intended either to be obliterated by a hand-stamp at the post-office, or to show the mode in which some proposed design should be arranged on the sheet.

(2) *ESSAYS AND PROPOSALS SUBSEQUENT TO 1840.*

FOR the reasons given in our introductory remarks, but very few essays or proposals were submitted to the authorities subsequently to 1840. Some few essays were prepared in 1879, when it became known that the typographic system of printing was about to be adopted for the twopence and inferior values; but in the absence of permission from the parties by whom they were submitted, we do not feel ourselves at liberty to describe those which we have seen.

1. MESSRS. ARCHER AND BRANSTON (*The "Prince Consort" Essays*).

In the year 1850 Henry Archer, whose name is associated with the invention of the perforating machine, entered into an arrangement with Robert Edward Branston, who, with his father, were well-known engravers, to engrave a die from which stamps might be printed on the surface principle, similar to that then in use in France, conceiving that they might be manufactured at a lower cost than those produced from steel plates, and that stamps printed by the dry process would not present the same difficulties in the use of the perforating machine as he had experienced in his experiments on sheets printed from steel plates. Branston availed himself of the assistance of S. W. Reynolds, an engraver, but there appears to have been some delay in the preparation of the plate, as specimens of the stamps were not ready till 12th September, 1850, when Archer wrote to the Marquess of Clanricarde, the Postmaster General, to apprise him of the fact. In March, 1851, Archer and Branston submitted a proposal to the authorities to print the whole of the postage stamps required by the Inland Revenue Department, on the surface principle, at the rate of fourpence-halfpenny per thousand, and a specimen of the stamps known as the "Prince Consort" essays accompanied the proposal.

From the evidence taken before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1852, of which Mr. P. H. Muntz, one of the members for Birmingham, was the chairman, it appears that the die, as first engraved by Mr. Reynolds, bore a representation of the Queen's head upon it; for Mr. Edwin Hill, in reply to question 816, says, "I cautioned him as soon as I knew what he was about." Branston also, in reply to question 516, says, "We were ordered to destroy all the impressions, and therefore they have been destroyed;" and then, producing specimens of the Prince Consort essays, he adds: "These are heads of Prince Albert." From this it may fairly be inferred that the imitations bearing the Queen's head were entirely destroyed, especially as no copy is known to have survived.

Whether the specimens then produced to the Committee were prepared by Mr. Reynolds or by Mr. Branston is not known, but they were shown by the latter as samples of what might be done by employing the dry process or surface printing in their manufacture, and were gummed with pure white gum.

The design consists of the head of Prince Albert to the left, on an engine-turned background, the whole being nearly identical with that of the then current one penny stamp, save that the engraving was of a much coarser description. Maltese crosses were introduced into the upper angular blocks, the lower ones all bearing the letters F. J. on white letter blocks. The sheets were of two sizes—one having twenty rows of twelve in a row, and the other twenty-one of such rows; the former were printed in red-brown, the latter in black. The size of the stamp is 18½ by 22 mm. The impressions were struck on ordinary white wove unwatermarked paper, and the stamps as produced were not perforated.

2. MESSRS. BRADBURY, WILKINSON AND CO.

In the year 1861 Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., bank-note engravers and printers, of Farringdon Road, London, designed and engraved in line on a patent surfaced plate a stamp representing the value of threepence. The design consists of a

full-faced bust of an allegorical female, crowned with a wreath of roses, and having a mantle thrown over the left shoulder; the head is enclosed in a circle, with a background of fine diapered work, all within a double-lined upright rectangular frame, measuring $19\frac{1}{2}$ by 24 mm. On a plain curved white tablet above the head is POSTAGE, and in a similar incurved tablet below THREEPENCE, the spandrels being filled in with horizontal lines. The impressions were taken off in various colours on thick cream-coloured unwatermarked paper, and also on card. We have seen the following; viz.:

Rose-red, blue, ultramarine-blue, green and black, on paper; purple and brown on card.

These stamps were engraved for exhibition only, together with other specimens of workmanship executed by the firm, and were never submitted to the Post-office authorities.

3. MESSRS. DE LA RUE AND Co. (*Experimental*).

Probably somewhere about the latter part of the year 1861 Messrs. De La Rue and Co. designed and engraved a stamp which, so far as we are able to learn, was prepared with the object of showing the facilities afforded by some other system of printing than that which they were then making use of for printing the fourpence adhesive postage stamp. In an upright rectangle, measuring 18 by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., is a circle $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter, in which, on a groundwork of horizontal lines, is a portrait in profile to the left (said to be that of the King of Portugal), the spandrels being filled in with a reticular pattern running vertically. On the right and left of the head the numeral 3 is introduced in white within a minute double-lined circle. Above the head, on a solid straight tablet, is EXPERIMENTAL in white block letters, and on another similar tablet below POSTAGE THREE PENCE in two lines. On comparing the stamps with each other slight variations may be seen, and the experiment, so far as each stamp being a perfect *fac-simile* of the others, cannot be said to have proved successful.

The stamps were printed ten in a row on white wove un-

watermarked paper, and were neither gummed or perforated. Each stamp is defaced by two white lines drawn across the plate diagonally. The impressions seen by us are in violet and rose-pink.

4. MESSRS. DE LA RUE AND Co. (*One Halfpenny*).

In 1870 Messrs. De La Rue and Co. submitted a design for the new value then about to appear. The design consists of an upright rectangle, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, or $18\frac{3}{4}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., in which is the Queen's head of the usual type to the left, set in a plain oval band, touching the outer left vertical and the upper lines of the rectangular frame. Four large squares are found in the angles for the lettering, the upper right and lower left of which are joined by a diagonal line running across the stamp, and severing the head and neck. The lower half thus divided is rendered on a plain ground of colour, on which, in large figures, is " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." The right upright border of the frame has a Greek pattern, and in the lower is a plain tablet to receive an inscription. The impression is taken from the die on white enamelled card in lake and in black.

5. W. H. HOOPER (*One Penny*).

Mr. William Harcourt Hooper, engraver, of 28, Fleet Street, London, prepared and engraved on wood a design for a stamp of the value of one penny, in 1879.

The design consists of a diademed head of the Queen to the left on a horizontally-lined ground, enclosed in an oval beaded frame, with a border of three lines—one thick between two thin ones—which at the angles form squares for the lettering. Ribbon scrolls respectively inscribed in block letters—POSTAGE on the left one, ONE on the upper one, and PENNY on the right one—fill in the sides and top of the stamp, while the space between the lower letter blocks is occupied by a garland of oak and bay. The whole forms an irregular upright rectangle, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, or 19 by 23 mm. The impression is in black on India paper, and was taken from the original wood block.

The design is extremely effective, and forms a pleasing variation to the monotony of the stamps of the Government series. The design was not accepted.

6. UNKNOWN (*Local Postage Stamp*).

We ought not to omit to notice a stamp, dating from 1862 or 1863, not uncommonly found in collections, but of the authorship of which we have been unable to ascertain any particulars. It is engraved in line; but from the general inferiority of the workmanship, the London engravers, to whom specimens have been submitted, are of opinion that it is country work. From the legend we should be led to suppose that at best it was intended as a specimen of workmanship, but it is also possible that it was produced solely for the behoof or mystification of collectors.

The design consists of the Royal Arms in a shield, superposed on a circular garter, measuring 20 mm. in diameter, on which is inscribed LOCAL POSTAGE STAMP. This is enclosed in an upright rectangular frame, measuring 24 by 29 mm., with a diapered-pattern ground. In the upper part above, and touching the garter, is the Royal Crown.

The impression is in various colours, on white wove unwater-marked paper, and the stamps are neither gummed nor perforated. We have seen impressions in the following colours: red, red-brown, pale and slate blue, black-grey, green and brown, in many of which there are several shades.

SECTION II.

ESSAYS, PROOFS, AND TRIALS OF THE STAMPS ACTUALLY ISSUED.

1. THE LINE-ENGRAVED STAMPS.

WHETHER Mr. Bacon submitted to the Lords of the Treasury in 1840 any other designs for the adhesive postage labels besides the one which was adopted we have not been able to ascertain. Specimens of the work done by his firm were circulated in the number of the *London and Westminster Review*, in February, 1840, as illustrations of an article on the New System of Postage; but it is evident, from the article itself, that at that time the proposals made by Mr. Bacon had been accepted, and the stamp which afterwards appeared was in progress. These specimens consisted of a group of three allegorical figures—Commerce, Plenty, and Art—in a circle surrounded by an engine-turned border, and measuring $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, or 29 mm. in diameter, twice repeated on an octavo sheet. On the same sheet were the ten commandments, engraved in a circle $\frac{1}{6}$ inch, or 14 mm., in diameter, and repeated sixteen times. These specimens were circulated to show the facility and the accuracy with which designs could be multiplied by Messrs. Bacon and Petch's process.

When the engraving of the one penny stamp was in progress we find several essays and trials tending to show certain of the stages through which the stamp passed, and some experiments made during its progress.

(a) The mode in which the original die or matrix for the one penny and two penny stamps was prepared has already been described. After the exact space to be occupied by the engraving of the head of the Queen had been outlined on the background of lathe-work, it was scraped out for the purpose of enabling Mr. Heath to engrave the head in the vacant space. At this stage of the process the upper and lower tablets had not been added, but before the colours of the stamps were absolutely decided on various trials of colour were made at that time, struck from the background only.

The proofs taken from the engine-turned background, without the tablets, and with the space for the insertion of the engraving of the head left blank, are on thick spongy white wove paper. The following colours have been seen :—

Purple-blue, deep blue, blue, light blue.

Dark brown, red-brown, umber-brown, light umber.

Brick-red, deep red, pale red.

Black.

These were submitted by the printers pasted on small sheets of thick paper in three rows, showing the gradations of colour. One of these sheets (unfortunately not quite complete) is before us, and its appearance leads us to the belief that there were four, or perhaps six, stamps in each row, twelve or eighteen in all, besides one in black, which is placed by itself in the margin. If this conjecture is correct, other shades besides those enumerated must have been prepared.

The trials of colour taken from the background enabled the authorities to decide which to adopt for the issue. It will be remembered that black was chosen for the one penny and blue for the twopence.

(b) Concurrently with many of these trials, experiments were also made of obliterating marks to be used in the Post-offices for cancelling the stamps; and to avoid reference to the same specimens more than once, these will be noted whenever they occur.

On a pair of the specimens just described, in the lower row,

and extending over both, is an essay of obliteration in black, consisting of V. R. in script capitals within a small central circle, round which is a black band, inscribed CANCELLED POST PAID in white block letters. This is again enclosed in a circular band, with an engine-turned device, surrounded by an outer line. The whole design measures 28 mm. in diameter.

The Maltese cross, or *croix patée*, afterwards adopted as an effacing mark, is also found on some of these trials.

(c) At the sale of the effects of Mr. Charles Heath, after his death in November, 1848, two engraver's proofs struck on the same card were disposed of, which ultimately passed into the collection of the late Mr. Jules Pauwels, of Torquay, and are now, it is believed, in the possession of some members of his family in Belgium.

The first of these shows the stamp before the upper and lower tablets were added, the background being that of the type subsequently issued. As the head was rather wider than the engraver approved, a dotted line to show the extent of the reductions to be made is traced inside the wider outlines. This dotted line gives the contour of the bust as finally issued.

The second shows the head as altered, but with an engine-turned background of a different pattern to that adopted, and with the words POSTAGE ONE PENNY at the foot in one line. The head of this latter, the background of the former, with the tablets added, made up the design as finally approved and adopted. Both of these are struck in black, and being engraver's proofs, are probably unique. For a more detailed account of them by the late Mr. Pemberton, see *Philatelist*, vol. ii. p. 16.

(d) It has been previously mentioned (*supra*, p. 76) that, about the month of August, 1840, in consequence of the difficulty of finding effectual means of preventing fraud by the removal of the effacing marks, it was determined to change the colour of the one penny stamp from black to red, and at the same time experiments were made with obliterating inks variously prepared.

For the purpose of these trials and experiments impressions

of the one penny were taken by Messrs. Bacon and Petch on plain white wove paper, the upper right corner of the dies having been first covered with wax to prevent a complete impression being made. These trials for colour were struck off in the various inks and colours then under consideration; the adhesive matter or cement was afterwards applied at the back, and experiments of the obliterating marks were made. The colours of these trials are so numerous and varied that they have earned for themselves the title of the "Rainbow Series." The list subjoined contains the more striking colours; the letter v appended to any implies that varieties of shades and tones of the particular colour exist.

Red-brown, as issued.
 Red-carmine, light and dark, v.
 Brick-red, a light shade.
 Brown, shades of reddish, v.
 Brown, shades of umber, v.
 Mauve-pink, or rose-hortensia.
 Purple.
 Grey, v.
 Slate.
 Slate-purple, v.
 Blue, light and dark, v.
 Slate-blue.
 Black.

A specimen is mentioned by M. Rondot (*Magasin Pittoresque*, 1863, p. 200) with the groundwork in brown and the head in pink. This, however, was made by simply inserting the head from one in the groundwork of another.

Many specimens, especially the darker shades of brown and blue and the red-brown, show the effects of the combined action of the ink and the gum on the back in producing the greenish-blue tinge on the paper. Wherever their presence is coincident in the white angle squares, as also in the corners and margins to which the ink has not extended, the effects of the chemical action are not found. As this point has been fully discussed in

treating of the one penny (1840) stamp it is needless to refer to it further here.

Several obliterating marks are found :

1. The Maltese cross, or *croix patée*, as then in use.
2. A series of seven concentric circles round a solid centre, the diameter of the exterior one measuring 24 mm.

These were simply hand stamps. The experiments were made not only on stamps of various colours, but also with various kinds of obliterating inks, and were for the most part conducted at the Treasury, under the direction of Sir Rowland Hill. Specimens of the one penny black V.R. are found with the above obliterations, belonging to sheets which were utilized at the Treasury for the purpose of these experiments.

3. A third kind is peculiar ; it presents a series of parallel cuts through the stamp nearly 2 mm. long, grouped together in pairs quite close to each other, each pair being separated from each other by an interval of $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. These cuts seem as if made by a spur-wheel, or roulette, which at the same time printed a succession of square black ink marks in line over the surface of the stamp. Whether the puncturing of the stamp was designed, or arose accidentally from the sharp edges of the roulette, cannot be stated, but of course such a result precluded the use of this kind of obliteration.

Various other specimens of effacing experiments are found, but the above are those more commonly met with.

(e) When in 1858 it was under consideration to suppress the Maltese crosses in the upper angles, and substitute letters in their places, and also to insert the number of the plate on the face of each stamp, specimens were printed to show the effect of the proposed alteration. For this purpose a roller impression of Die 1 of the one penny (Heath's original head) was taken, from which the Maltese crosses were removed, and an assumed plate number of three figures (1 2 3) was engraved in the reticulated framework, the figures being larger and thicker than those afterwards adopted. The corner blocks of the plate were filled in with Egyptian or block letters, of a smaller size than those

subsequently introduced. The impression was in the ordinary red colour, and was taken off on paper watermarked with "large crown" inverted. This essay is of exceptional interest as an example of a stamp printed from Die L, on "large crown" paper, and with letters in all the four angles. It was printed in 1858, though, as we have seen, the changes were not carried out in the one penny stamp till 1861.

(f) For some reason or other which we are unable to state trial sheets were struck from Plate No. 75, approved 7th February, 1863, the upper left corner of the dies being waxed so as not to take the impression. The blocks in the three other corners being blank, and not filled in with the lettering, it is evident that the impression was taken off before the plate was approved for use.

We have seen the following, viz. :

1. One penny, carmine-red, on blue laid paper.
2. One penny, blue, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

This latter is of the same shade as the twopence current at that time, and the specimen we have seen is stamped with a trial effacing mark in black, consisting of a large crown in a plain circle, with the word LONDON and the date, 22.6.63, from which it appears probable that these sheets were used for the purpose of experiments in effacing marks.

(g) The British Post-office authorities having determined to exhibit in the Exposition Universelle of Paris in 1867 a complete set of all the apparatus and material used in the service of the Department, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., at the instance of Mr. Pearson Hill, then Under Secretary to the Post-office, printed in 1866 specimen sheets of the one penny from Plate No. 103, Series II., then current,* both in black and in carmine-

* Consequent on the clearness of the impression of these stamps collectors have frequently noticed that the figure 1 of 103, on the left side of the head, looks as if the up-stroke, or "serif" as it is termed by printers, was on the wrong side of the main line of the figure, but close examination will show that this appearance is created by the reticulated groundwork, and that the figure itself is merely a hair-lined block figure. This peculiarity may be noticed at the left side of clearly-printed penny stamps from Plates Nos. 100 to 199 inclusive.

red, and of the twopence, in blue, Plate No. 9. These sheets were printed on thick yellowish soft paper, which showed the beauty of the engraving to perfection. The paper bore no watermark, and was as thick as ordinary card-board.

After the close of the exhibition a few copies found their way into the hands of collectors. Specimens of these stamps cannot therefore be considered as specially rare.

(h) We only know of one proof of the one penny stamp printed from the plate after the letters in the lower angles had been inserted in a different colour to that in which it was issued. This was taken off in a dull blue tint from the first plate when it was completed, and ready to be printed from, and is on the paper employed for the issue, watermarked with a "small crown." Specimens from this sheet are of the highest degree of rarity.

(i) In the early part of the year 1841, when the white lines above and below the head of the Queen had been inserted on the roller impression of the twopence, a small trial plate, consisting of twelve stamps in three rows of four in each row, was struck off, showing the white lines above and below the head, and the Maltese crosses in the upper angles, with the letter blocks left blank. The stamps thus produced are not quite in true line, nor are they at equal distances from each other. The impression was taken off on paper, watermarked with the "small crown" reversed, and the sheet was gummed. The colour was blue, of which two very distinct shades are found.

These proofs are not rare, being ordinarily seen in good collections.

(j) In the latter part of the year 1870, proofs in various colours, of the one penny and twopence, were struck off from the matrices or original dies as retouched by Humphreys. As the Maltese crosses on the blocks in the upper angles were engraved on the dies and the blocks in the lower angles left blank, they appeared so on these impressions, but the white lines, distinctive of the twopence, and which were only inserted on the roller, of course do not appear.

These impressions are carefully printed on plate paper, mounted on card of a yellowish tone, showing a margin the full size of the steel die of an inch or more all round the impression, thus greatly enhancing the effect of the impression.

The word NEW and the figure 1 were engraved on the die ; for they appear on the margin, embossed in plain relief, but reading backwards. In the twopence the words NEW DIE are also visible.

The one penny was printed in black, carmine, and green ;

The twopence in blue, black, and green.

Similar proofs were also at the same time struck off from the original dies of the one halfpenny and the three halfpence. Those of the one halfpenny were printed in carmine, black, orange, and blue, the four angles being blank ; those of the three halfpence were printed, with the four angles in blank, in carmine-red, black, blue, and green.

The Forged One Penny.—From time to time the authorities have been afflicted with scares, which sometimes took the form of fears that the stamps were or might be forged ; at others, that they were being tampered with by removing the effacing marks. One of these periodical seizures appears to have occurred in or about 1860, and the authorities became anxious to know by experiment how far the forgery of a stamp that would pass muster was practicable by ordinary means. For this purpose an imitation was ordered to be made by an expert and skilful engraver, who was furnished with everything requisite to enable him to produce a *fac-simile* of the one penny stamp. The imitation was purposely left incomplete in one angle ; but the impressions taken from the die exhibit differences so palpable that the least practised eye could not be deceived by them for a moment. The result appears to have reassured the authorities, and moreover showed the wisdom of employing a portrait as the principal feature of the design. It further evidenced the propriety not only of retaining the then existing safeguards, but rather of adding to them by the introduction of others, though

the greater part of these have been, we fear, unadvisedly abolished in many of the stamps during the past year.

Proofs of the imitation stamp in the colour of the one penny were taken from the die on plate paper, and mounted on card, and are to be found in official collections.

The Three Halfpence.—(a) In 1860 Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. were directed to prepare a design for a new value of three halfpence. The design, as submitted by them, was only what may be termed a scissors and paste adaptation of the then current one penny, from a copy of which it was constructed, the portions of the lettering which it was desired to hide being covered with body colour. The word POSTAGE is introduced in a curve above the Queen's head, and below is THREE HALFPENCE in two lines. White letter blocks are inserted in all the four angles, with lettering similar to that then in use on the two-pence. The great similarity of the design with that of the one penny caused the authorities to reject it, and to desire another to be prepared, in which the difference should be more distinctly marked.

(b) The design subsequently selected has been already described; but the reduction of the postage rate contemplated in 1860 not having taken effect, the stock was destroyed, except some few sheets kept as specimens. Copies surcharged SPECIMEN are common; those unsurcharged are rare. In some the blue action of the gum is much more apparent than on others. The sheet registered at Somerset House, on which the *imprimatur* is endorsed 22nd March, 1860, is deeply discoloured.

2. THE EMBOSSED STAMPS.

The Tenpence and the One Shilling.—(a) Two designs—one for the tenpence and the other for the one shilling—appear to have been submitted to the authorities in 1847 by Mr. William Wyon. The design of both consists of the head of the Queen, as engraved by him for the embossing die of one penny, and

was struck in white relief, without the addition of any pendent curl, in an upright octagon. Within the exterior line of the die is a border, about 2 mm. in breadth, drawn in pen and ink, composed of zig-zags, with ornaments of dots introduced. The octagon measures externally 23 by $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and within the border, on the plain ground, the value in full is inserted with pen and ink in Roman capitals.

(b) In the tenpence the inscription reads downwards—POSTAGE in the left vertical side; TEN below the head; and PENCE reading upwards on the right vertical side. After the introduction of this legend the ground was painted in water-colour a yellow tint of green.

(c) In the one shilling the inscription reads upwards from the left vertical side, on which is POSTAGE; above the head is ONE, and on the left vertical side SHILLING. The ground is painted in yellow buff.

These essays are on thick white unwatermarked paper, and are gummed at the back with a thick coating of yellowish gum.

(b) Two copies of the octagonal die last described were subsequently struck at a distance of 4 mm. apart on thick cream-coloured "Dickinson" paper, similar to that on which the stamps themselves were afterwards struck and issued, but the threads passing horizontally across the stamps instead of vertically. They were struck in plain colour. In one pair the ground is pea-green, and was submitted as a trial of colour for the one shilling; the other pair, submitted as trials of colour for the tenpence, have a ground of yellow in two shades, the one a bright yellow and the other chrome yellow.

The backs of these trials are gummed with good yellowish-coloured gum.

In the stamps as subsequently prepared the same octagonal die was preserved, but on the suggestion of Mr. Ormond Hill, was furnished with an engine-turned border, the work of the late Mr. Moss, an engraver employed for this purpose by Mr. Ormond Hill.

(c) Previous to the insertion of the date plugs in the die of the one shilling, a proof was, in 1855, struck in the normal colour, green, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

The Sixpence.—A similar proof was struck at the same time from Die No. 4 of the sixpence, in lilac, on white wove unwatermarked paper, before the insertion of the date plugs.

3. THE TYPE-PRINTED STAMPS.

The Fourpence.—(a) The first design prepared in 1855 by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., showed the head of the Queen to the left in a circle, in an upright rectangular frame of similar size with that of the stamp subsequently prepared and issued. Above and below the circle are plain straight tablets, touching the circle and completing the parallelogram. On the upper tablet is POSTAGE, and on the lower FOUR PENCE, the spandrels being filled in with a reticulated pattern.

The impression was taken from the die in carmine on white enamelled card.

(b) A trial impression in a dull shade of vermilion was taken from Plate No. 8 (*supra*, p. 115), approved 15th August, 1865, on a sheet of white wove unwatermarked paper, which was afterwards gummed, but not perforated.

(c) In August, 1868, proofs were struck from Die III. (*supra*, p. 115) for trials of colour. The impressions, being struck from the die, show the letter and date blocks in solid colour. They were struck in rose and in blue on white enamelled card.

The Sixpence.—(a) Proofs from Die I. (*supra*, p. 119) were, in 1856, taken in emerald green, and also in clear violet of a paler shade than that afterwards adopted for the issue. These proofs were struck on white enamelled card.

(b) Proofs on white wove unwatermarked paper were taken off, in two shades of green, from Plate No. 1, approved 29th March, 1856, and also in green on thick soft card.

On these last proofs experimental trials of obliterations were made. The design of the obliterating stamp consisted of a single-lined circle, measuring 1 inch or 25½ mm. in diameter, in which was a Royal Crown, with the date 2. 4. 56 below. In a curve above was HELMSLEY, the name of a post-town in Yorkshire, but no obliterating marks of this pattern were ever adopted.

(c) Proofs from Die II., prepared for Plate No. 3, with a hyphen, were struck off in black, on white wove unwatermarked paper, previously to the issue. (*Vide supra*, p. 121.)

(d) Similar proofs were also struck off in August, 1864, from Die III., prepared for Plate No. 5 (*supra*, p. 122), the impression from which was approved 30th December following. These were struck off in black on white enamelled card, and show the die with the letter blocks and all the four circles in blank, and also with the upper circles filled in with stars.

(e) Some sheets for trials of colours were printed from Plate No. 6, Issue III (*supra*, p. 122), and from Plate No. 9, Issue IV. (*supra*, p. 123). The former are printed on white wove unwatermarked paper, and were not gummed or perforated; the latter were printed on the paper of the issue watermarked with "spray of rose," and were gummed, but not perforated.

These sheets were, we believe, printed in 1870, to assist the authorities in deciding upon the colour which should be adopted for the new type of this value then in preparation, inasmuch as so late as April, 1869, a sheet was printed in lilac from Plate No. 10 (which was never brought into use) for the reception of the *imprimatur*, and the next plate (No. 11), brought into use in January, 1872, was of Type II. The impression from this latter plate on which the *imprimatur* is endorsed is in chestnut-brown, one of the shades to be found among the trials printed from Plate No. 9.

(1) From Plate No. 6, on white wove unwatermarked paper, we find impressions in vermilion, green, and ultramarine blue.

(2) From Plate No. 9, on white wove paper, watermarked "spray of rose," we find impressions in orange, ochre-yellow, brown-red, and clear chesnut-brown.

The One Shilling.—The first designs for the stamp of this value submitted in 1856 show the head of the Queen as finally chosen, but with considerable differences in the construction of the stamp.

(a) The head is on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, enclosed in a beaded circle, touching the sides and top of the rectangular frame. Below, in two lines, is POSTAGE—ONE SHILLING, in white block letters, on a straight tablet of solid colour. The spandrels are filled in with a reticulated pattern somewhat similar to that of Die I.

The impression is in red-brown on enamelled card.

On the back of the specimen from which the above description is taken is a design in pencil of the watermark proposed for adoption, composed of the heraldic emblems, disposed in a curve both at the top and the bottom of the stamp—a rose in the centre, and the thistle and shamrock on either side.

(b) This design is very similar to that ultimately selected, but the oval band enclosing the head is wider, reducing the space left for the head. Above the head, on a solid curved tablet with rounded ends, is POSTAGE, and on a similar incurved tablet below ONE SHILLING, in clear block letters. The rest of the oval band is filled in with a scroll-pattern of fine lines, and the rectangular frame is composed of similar lines differently disposed. The pattern of the filling in of the spandrels is similar to that of the previous essay.

The impression was struck in carmine, on white enamelled card.

(c) This essay is similar to the last, except that the scroll-pattern on the sides of the oval border is suppressed, and the heraldic emblems of the rose, shamrock, and thistle introduced. The rectangular frame is also changed, and composed of three coloured lines, the innermost of which is incurved at the angles, and a small ornament introduced.

The impression is in pale blue, on white enamelled card.

(d) The next essay presents the stamp as approved and issued (see illustration, p. 129), and is printed on glazed white wove

unwatermarked paper. We have seen it in carmine, in green, and in ultramarine-blue.

There are white dots in the two lower and in the upper left corners. The specimen printed in carmine is defaced with a white cross scratched across the stamp, and all are found heavily effaced with an oval hand-stamped mark, which is evidently a trial of an obliterating mark.

(e) A proof impression on thin white wove unwatermarked paper was taken from the Plate No. 1, in the same shade of green as was adopted for the issue. Specimens of these are commonly found defaced by an oblique pen stroke across the stamp.

The Ninepence.—(a) In 1861 a proof from Die I. (*supra*, p. 134) was taken off in black on white wove unwatermarked paper.

(b) A design, differing in many particulars from the stamp as issued, was subsequently prepared by Messrs. De La Rue, but at what period we are unable to state positively, nor do we know with what object it was prepared, unless it were in contemplation of the construction of a new type for the value. As a matter of course, the sole points of difference are to be found in the treatment of the frame, the principal of them being—the edge of the nine-curved line surrounding the head is ornamented with crescent-shaped dots, instead of consisting of plain lines as in the stamp; the reticulated pattern of the spandrels is vertically disposed, but coarser in design. The inscriptions, POSTAGE, NINE PENCE, are in Roman characters in white, on solid coloured tablets. In the angle squares the letters are small, and are enclosed in single lined circles. The letters on the specimens before us, inserted in the upper letter blocks, are V. A.; in the lower one, C. O., the signification of which we are unable to state.

Copies of this frame were printed in two colours—olive-ochre and light brown-red—and the interior portion being removed, the frame was pasted on to a head taken from another stamp.

That printed in olive-ochre is pasted on to a fiscal stamp prepared for the "Suitors' Fee Fund account of the Court of Chancery;" that printed in light red-brown, on a head taken from a stamp watermarked with "spray of rose." The presence of this watermark on the head introduced is somewhat remarkable, as it is not found on any stamp prior to 1867. The introduction of small lettering, and the absence of any provision for the insertion of the number of the plates, would rather tend to indicate a retrograde movement. The only supposition which appears to us to be probable is, that it was a preliminary design for a modification of the ninepence. It will be remembered that the demand for this value suddenly ceased, in consequence of a change in the rate of postage, and Plate No. 5, approved April, 1866, was never brought into use. It may be that an intention existed of changing the design of the successor to Plate No. 5, and that the absence of further call for the stamp put an end to the project. We have chronicled the facts, the explanation we must leave to others.

The Threepence.—The die for this stamp was prepared in 1861, and as the design for the head of the Queen had already been accepted, the only portion which gave scope for originality was the treatment of the frame.

(a) In the design as at first prepared the trilobed border ultimately approved of was introduced into the rectangular frame upside down, as compared with the stamp afterwards issued. The spaces between the border and the rectangular lines of the frame were filled in with a minute groundwork, and in the angles were introduced letters reading diagonal-wise, H. U. N. T.

Proofs of the die of this border were taken off on white enamelled card in blue and also in carmine.

(b) The inner space from the proof of the border taken off in carmine having been removed, the border was pasted on a 5s. "Matrimonial Causes" stamp bearing the approved design of the Queen's head, which was also in carmine. The effect was

not satisfactory, and it was determined to invert the frame, which was accordingly done.

(c) The frame being inverted, the legends were changed so as to read properly in the new position of the framework, and as so altered, the design was approved. A plate (No. 1) was constructed, but the impressions not being satisfactory it was not used, and a second plate (No. 2) was constructed, the impression from which was approved 17th October, 1861.

Before the printing had advanced far it was determined to suppress the pattern between the trilobed border and the rectangular frame, and the die was altered accordingly. Plate No. 2 appears also to have been altered by scraping away the pattern, and in its altered state was again approved 19th March, 1862.

The impressions taken from Plate No. 2, struck previously to the alteration, were not only perforated ready for issue, but many had been surcharged "SPECIMEN" for distribution to the postmasters, and it is believed that a few were actually sent out; the bulk, however, of the impression was destroyed. These "specimen" stamps are by no means uncommon, but copies not so surcharged are very rarely met with.

(d) Proofs from Die II. (*supra*, p. 138), with solid letter and number blocks, were struck in black on white enamelled card.

(e) Proofs of Plate No. 4, constructed from the last-mentioned die, with the plate number and letters inserted, were struck in November, 1864, on white wove unwatermarked paper.

Die Proofs of Series Current in 1870.

(a) In the year 1867 proofs in various colours of the tenpence, two shillings, and five shillings, issued on the 1st July, 1867, were, at the instance of the Post Office, struck from the original dies for the Paris Exhibition, the letter blocks and those for the numbers of the dies being in blank. The specimens were beautifully printed, and the colours displayed great purity of tone.

(b) In 1870 proofs in various colours were also taken from the whole of the original dies prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., belonging to stamps that were then in use. These, taking

them in the order of the facial value of the stamps, were as follows :

(1) In 1870, the **THREEPENCE**, Die II. (*supra*, p. 139), in carmine, black, lilac-rose, yellow, and brown.

(2) In 1870, the **FOURPENCE**, Die III. (*supra*, p. 115), in vermilion, black, ochre-yellow, and mauve.

(3) In 1870, the **SIXPENCE**, Die IV., in lilac, mauve, and brown.

(4) In 1870, the **NINEPENCE**, Die II. (*supra*, p. 135), in bistre, black, mauve, and yellow.

(5) In 1867 and 1870, the **TENPENCE** (*supra*, p. 142), in chestnut-brown, black, green, azure blue, lilac-rose, orange, carmine, bistre, and brown.

(6) In 1870, the **ONE SHILLING**, Die III. (*supra*, p. 131), in green, purple, black, and brown.

(7) In 1867 and 1870, the **TWO SHILLINGS** (*supra*, p. 143), in blue-black, rose-lilac, ochre-yellow, green, and chestnut-brown.

(8) In 1867 and 1870, the **FIVE SHILLINGS** (*supra*, p. 145), in carmine, black, brown, blue-green, and orange.

Trials on Paper Chemically Prepared.

Early in 1871 the Post-office authorities, desiring to see whether the paper could not be so prepared as to prevent the stamps printed thereon from being tampered with, caused sheets of the paper then in current use to undergo a peculiar preparation, which stained them a green hue, more or less intense, the hand-made paper issued to Perkins, Bacon, and Co. not showing it so much as the wove paper on which De La Rue and Co. printed.

We believe that the trials then made embraced those of ingredients to mix with the ink, and which were intended to conduce to the result in view ; namely, an immediate detection if any acid or detergent were applied to the stamp.

From the current plates, and on the paper of the issue thus prepared, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. printed trials as under ; viz. :

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1d., carmine, from Plate 121. | |
| 1½d. „ „ | 1. |
| 2d., blue „ „ | 13. |

and Messrs. De La Rue and Co.—

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 3d., carmine, from Plate 5. | |
| 4d., vermilion „ | 12. |
| 6d., lilac „ | 9. |
| 1s., green „ | 4. |

These stamps were gummed, but not perforated. The result of the experiments on the paper so prepared was not satisfactory, and the proposed system was in consequence never adopted.

4. THE "MULREADY" COVERS.

1. Two species of proofs only are known of the design for the face of the cover and envelope made by the late W. Mulready, R.A., the one being an engraver's proof, and the other a printer's proof.

(a) Before any stereo-plates were constructed from the wood block engraved by Mr. John Thompson, a few proofs were struck off in black on India paper. These are strictly of the class known as engraver's or artist's proofs, and are of great softness in tone and delicacy in execution. They are of the highest degree of rarity. It is said that six impressions only were taken off, one of which, with the original pencil sketch of the design, was sold, in 1864, after the death of Mr. Mulready, at the sale of his effects, for twenty guineas.*

(b) Proofs were taken from the stereo-plate before the lettering was introduced, both on India paper and on thickish green-grey paper. These are printer's proofs, and are readily distinguishable from those taken from the wood block by the greater thickness of the lines, especially those of the rectangular frame inclosing the design, and by the coarser character of the impression generally. Both of these impressions are of considerable rarity, though copies are met with in the best collections.

* The original block is in the South Kensington Museum.

2. There are several essays of the component parts of the covers as subsequently issued, some of which are also applicable to the envelopes, of which, as distinct from the covers, no essays are known to exist.

(a) A half-sheet of paper, measuring 9 by 8 inches, on the lower part of the face of which is POST TOWN—PENNY STAMP. In four columns, two at each end, are tables of the prices of the stamps, with various directions and other information for the public, slightly differing in phraseology from those on the covers as ultimately issued, and in smaller and thicker type.

There is a space for inserting the address of the sender of the letter, and a notice that if the party to whom it is addressed cannot be found, the letter is to be returned to the sender. This notice, when the cover is folded, appears on the reverse side.

On the specimen from which this description is taken there are pencil lines indicating where the "Dickinson" threads are to pass, and the schedule of prices has been corrected. On the front space Sir Rowland Hill has made the following note, "A design with a figure of Britannia in the middle. This figure constitutes the essential part of the stamp."

The impression is in black on white wove unwatermarked paper.

(b) A half-sheet of paper to fold as a cover, with the space on the face for the design left blank, with marginal columns of printed matter, as in the covers ultimately issued, but similar in type and phraseology to that of (a), the columns of printing and the address space being framed with thick black lines. The remainder of the sheet is covered with a minute engine-turned pattern, with an inner fancy-bordering, the word POSTAGE being introduced in the same way as it appeared on the covers actually issued. When the cover is folded as a letter the back appears entirely covered with the pattern. The impression is in black, on plain white wove paper.

(c) This is the same as the last, save that the "Mulready" design is introduced into the blank space on the face, and intentionally blurred to prevent improper use being made of the

specimen. The printed matter in the columns was reset, with some slight differences, and turned so as to read the other end uppermost. The impression is in black, on plain white wove paper.

(d) This is similar to the last, but the engine-turned pattern is suppressed except in one place, shaped like a tablet, a little above the head of Britannia. This has evidently been done by covering over with paper the parts intended to be left blank. The columns of printed matter are separated by thick double lines. The impression is in black, on plain white wove paper.

(e) This is similar to the last, except that the tablet is suppressed, and the engine-turned pattern is allowed to appear about half an inch round the outer edges, and the lines separating the columns of print are thick and single. Two thick lines are also added on the front, covering the spaces where the engraver's name and the value are usually found. The impression is in black, on plain white wove paper.

(f) Similar to (e), save that the whole of the engine-turned device appears on the back of the cover when folded, as (b).

All the above are of exceptional interest and rarity, being probably unique. The design selected was the tablet of (d), in which the word POSTAGE was introduced, the rest of the engine-turned work being effaced, and the tablet enclosed in a single-lined frame.

3. In addition to the proofs above described, a proof of the twopence was struck in blue, on "Dickinson" paper, with two pink threads and one blue running *vertically* down the face of the sheet, which measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This proof was discovered by the late Mr. Pemberton, and described by him in the *Philatetical Journal*, 1872, p. 198.

It is struck from the stereo-plate, and has the value inserted on the face, as also the tablet with POSTAGE on it, but there are no printed instructions at the ends nor any number on the plate, such as was introduced in the ordinary impressions. It appears to be a printers' proof from one of the first stereo-plates, and as

such is carefully printed. Mr. Pemberton's account is inaccurate so far as it supposes that there are any differences either in the printing or the size of the tablet, between this and the cover as actually issued. We have carefully examined the specimen which is before us, and have ascertained the fact beyond the possibility of doubt.

5. ENVELOPES WITH EMBOSSED STAMPS.

1. *The One Penny, Die I.*—The greater part of the essays and trials were made from dies struck by Mr. W. Wyon, without the addition of any pendent curl behind the head of the Queen. As before stated, the curls were added and varied in the secondary dies constructed for each particular value.

The reticulated lathe-work on the border of Die I. of the one penny was executed by Mr. Deacon (long in the employ of the late Mr. Charles Whiting), one of the best engravers of that species of work that this or any other country has ever produced; and all that was subsequently produced by Mr. Moss and by Messrs. De La Rue suffers in comparison with the beauty and finish characterising Mr. Deacon's handiwork. This is apparent not only in Die I. of the one penny, and that of the twopence subsequently constructed, but also perhaps even more remarkably in some of the various trials and essays made previously to the final acceptance of the design.

We are unable to give the dates when these designs were severally executed, but we will endeavour to describe them in the order in which we think it probable that they were prepared and submitted to the authorities.

(a) The embossed head of the Queen has no pendent curl. The specimen shows the full size of the die, which is circular, with a diameter of $1\frac{9}{16}$ inch, or 37 mm. The border is composed of two upright oval bands, the external one measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{9}{16}$ inch, or 30 by 37 mm. The interior oval is composed of a network of fine lines in chain pattern, and the exterior one of a close network of wavy lines, the upper portion

of which is cleared to receive a curved solid tablet, on which is inscribed **POSTAGE ONE PENNY** in Roman capitals, embossed in white. At the bottom of this frame a bouquet of the heraldic flowers is engraved over the network of the border.

The impression is struck in pink, on thick soft white card.

(*b*) This is the same as the above, but the die is cut away so as to show only an impression of the shape of the oval. A pendent curl is added resembling that afterwards adapted to Die II.

The impressions from the die as so modified are found in blue of a very pure full tone, in very deep blue, and in a fine chocolate-brown.

(*c*) The design resembles (*a*) in many respects; the margins of the die are not removed, and there is no pendent curl. The head is surrounded by two oval bands, the innermost being of the same pattern as that of (*a*) and (*b*), and the pattern of the exterior one is also similar to the preceding, but is continued all round instead of being cut away to receive the solid tablet. The legend, **POSTAGE ONE PENNY**, is engraved on the upper part of this border in block shaded letters, and the bouquet in the lower part is made smaller and less spreading. The impressions are struck on thick white wove unwatermarked paper, in bright blue, on a half-sheet of rough paper, note size, and in deep blue on a half-sheet of glazed note paper.

(*d*) The same as the last, with the exception that the margin of the die has been removed so as only to show the oval. The size of the bouquet at the lower part of the exterior frame is again reduced; the upper part is cleared of the design, and a solid tablet introduced, with the inscription **POSTAGE 1d., HALF** oz., all in white block letters. Impressions were struck—

(1) On thin white wove unwatermarked paper, in plain white relief and in black.

(2) On thick white wove unwatermarked paper, in pink, chocolate-brown, pale blue, and deep green.

(3) On laid hand-made paper, in black and pale dull blue.

(4) On thick soft white card, in black.

(e) The external oval is entirely suppressed, and the impression shows a circular die $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, or 27 mm. in diameter. The impression is struck in deep blue, on thick soft card; no lettering or value expressed.

(f) The head, also without pendent curl, is struck on a circular die of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, or 32 mm. in diameter. The head is enclosed in a single oval border, the minor axis of which measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ and the major 25 mm., and the border being of the same breadth as before, greater width is allowed for the head. The pattern of the border is similar to that of the interior one in those previously described, but it is re-engraved in a superior style. The upper part is removed to receive a solid tablet, with the inscription, POSTAGE ONE PENNY, in white Roman capitals. Impressions were struck on thick soft card, in deep blue and dark Vandyke brown.

This is evidently an entirely fresh die, and is remarkable for its finish and beauty.

(g) Same as (f), but the circular margin of the die has been cut away, leaving the oval only. The impression is struck in black, on thick white wove unwatermarked paper.

(h) The same as the last, but the solid tablet is removed, and the engine-turned pattern continued round the whole of the oval border, and in the upper part the legend POSTAGE ONE PENNY is introduced in the lathe-work of the border in sunken block letters. The initials w.w. are indented on the base of the bust of these specimens. Specimens are found struck—

(1) On yellowish wove unwatermarked paper, in pale blue, slate-grey, dull brown, and vermilion.

(2) On bluish laid paper, in pale blue and vermilion.

(3) On thick soft yellowish card, in black.

(i) The single oval frame enclosing the head is rather shorter than in the last. The pattern of the lathe-work is similar, but the upper part is removed to receive a solid tablet, with the inscription POSTAGE ONE PENNY in white Roman capitals. The exterior line of the oval is beaded. The impression is struck on thick soft yellowish card, in pink.

(*j*) The head, with a pendent curl similar to that afterwards adopted for Die II., is enclosed in an oval border, the solid interior ground being not quite so wide as in the preceding essay (*i*). The lathe-work on the border is of a similar pattern to the previous, and is continued all round. In the upper part is the legend POSTAGE ONE PENNY, introduced into the lathe-work in large sunken block coloured letters, which are outlined by a fine embossed white line in the lathe-work. The impression is struck on white wove unwatermarked paper, in black and in a yellowish-pink, and on thick soft yellowish card in deep blue and dark Vandyke brown.

(*k*) This essay consists of a design for the oval band only, the head not being introduced. A portion of the border, equal to about three-fourths of the whole circumference, has the engine-turned work duplicated as in the one penny embossed stamp subsequently adopted. An exterior line is added to the oval. The impression is taken off on thin white enamelled card in pale ultramarine-blue.

(*l*) The head, with the pendent curl of the one penny envelope, Die I., is introduced into an oval frame similarly engine-turned to that last described, but with the duplicated portion much closer, and there is no additional external line round the border. There are no inscriptions on the border, nor are the initials found on the base of the bust. The impression was struck from the original die, as chosen for the one penny envelope before the inscription was engraved on the border, and is on white enamelled paper, in bright ultramarine-blue.

(*m*) The same as the last (*l*), but with the legend POSTAGE ONE PENNY engraved on the engine-turned border in sunken block letters. The impression was struck from the original die as finally approved of, and not from the working die, in which the initials and die numbers were introduced. The impression is in deep blue, and also in a paler shade on yellowish soft card.

2. *The One Penny, Die II.*—A new secondary die for the

one penny was constructed in 1860 by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., as mentioned in *Sup.*, p. 174.

A proof of this die, before the index number of the die or the initials of Mr. Wyon were inserted on the base of the bust, was struck in plain relief on white card.

3. *The Three Halfpence.*—(a) The border for this die was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue as a *pendant* to the adhesive stamp of similar value, prepared in 1860 by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co.

Proofs of the border as designed were struck off in lilac on thick white card, and in yellow and rose-pink on thin white enamelled card.

On the two first mentioned specimens from which this description is taken, a head of the Queen, cut out from an impression struck for some other stamp, is pasted within the border, showing the effect the stamp would produce when completed.

(b) The design of the border last described having been approved with some slight modifications, it was engraved on a die furnished with a head struck on it from Mr. Wyon's die. Proofs, with the die date of 2nd April, 1860, were struck from the working die, No. 1, marked 1 w. w., in rose-pink, on white laid paper, of a size resembling the face of an envelope.

A copy of the 1½d. adhesive, surcharged, in black, SPECIMEN, in block letters, is usually found affixed to the face of these proofs alongside the embossed stamp.

(c) In August, 1872, proofs were again taken from the same working die, marked 1 w. w., in rose-pink, on white laid paper.

4. *The Threepence.*—(a) The border for this die was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and was prepared in a similar manner to No. 3 last described. Proofs of this border were struck in carmine, on white enamelled card, with a head of the Queen pasted in the centre, showing the effect the stamp would produce when completed.

(b) The design last described having been approved, was, with some slight modifications in detail, engraved on a die furnished with a head struck from Mr. Wyon's die. Proofs from the die as so completed (not from a working die) were struck on white enamelled card, in violet and carmine.

5. *The Fourpence*.—The border for this die was engraved by Messrs. De La Rue. Whether any design was submitted to the authorities, prepared as in the two previous cases, we are unable to say; but we have before us a proof, from the original die, struck in vermilion, on white wove paper.*

6. PROOFS OF NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

(a) Prior to the die for the halfpenny stamp impressed on the wrappers being hardened, a proof was struck, on the 1st June, 1870, by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., in a full rich tone of green, on white enamelled card. The impression shows three solid discs of colour where the date plugs were subsequently inserted, each being marked with a small white cross.

(b) Another proof was taken from the die after hardening, also before the date numbers were inserted, and is struck on plain yellowish wove unwatermarked paper, in a dull shade of blue, being merely a trial of colour.

(c) A proof was struck in black, on white wove unwatermarked paper, from a plate as completed, with the date 1. 10. 70. inserted in the die.

(d) Like the last, but plugs with floriated ornaments, as now (1881) in use, are inserted in place of those bearing the date numerals. The impression is in black on white enamelled card.

There exist in Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s private collection proofs of (c) in black on white enamelled card.

* Proofs struck from the original dies are distinguishable from those struck from the working dies by the absence of the index number, as in the original die neither this nor the initials are inserted on the base of the bust, nor are the holes for the date plugs drilled.

In the same collection is also found a similar proof of the oval stamp of one penny as employed for the wrapper of that value.

7. PROOFS OF POST CARDS.

Following their usual practice, Messrs. De La Rue and Co. struck proofs in black both before and after the die was hardened.

(a) The first exactly corresponds with the larger-sized card as issued, save that it is struck, in black, from the die, on plain wove paper of ordinary thickness, before the lines in the stamp over the Queen's face and neck were a little lightened towards the left side and lights introduced there.

(b) The second is struck from the die after these alterations were made, and is in black on thick buff card, rather deeper in shade than that employed for the issue.

This is marked by hand "No. 2."

(c) Is from the same die, struck in lilac, on thick white card, showing vertical laid lines on its face.

(d) This is the same, and is printed on buff card as issued, marked by hand "specimen proof." It is finely printed in a rich full shade of lilac. The reverse of the card shows horizontally-laid lines.

(e) This is similar to the preceding, with the word SPECIMEN in plain block letters printed across the stamp, and extending 22 mm.

(f) This is a simple proof, in all respects conformable to the issue, save that it was printed in July, 1870. The stamp and border is of a remarkably deep colour, deeper than (d), and far deeper than that of any card issued.

The size of the frames in all the above six proofs is 109 by 74 mm.

(g) This is a proof of the smaller-sized card, the frame measuring 112 by 65 mm. This proof was submitted for size of the card only, as the border, legend, Royal Arms, and word "To," are introduced, but not the stamp. Below "To" is an oblong tablet of plain colour, 85 by 11 mm., to show that there

would be room for the address. It is printed in black on thickish vertically-laid paper of a light buff tint.

All the above seven proofs have the Royal Arms, with the misformed N of PENSE in the Garter motto, and the word "To" on the face.

In the archives of the Commissioners at Somerset House, and also in Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s private collection, proofs in black, on white enamelled card, from the die of the stamp of 1878, with HALFPENNY in a curve above the Queen's head, and of the 1d., 1½d., and 1¾d. cards are to be found.

Part II.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

I.

PRIVATE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

It would be foreign to the object of the present work to enter into the origin or history of the electric telegraph, or of its establishment as a medium of communication; the fact that the charges for the transmission of messages were in many instances defrayed by means of franked forms or special adhesive stamps is that which renders the following short remarks germane to the purposes of this treatise.

After the genius and the labours of the telegraph engineers had removed the invention from the category of mere scientific experiment to that of practical utility, the great railway companies were naturally among the first to adopt the system. Being owners of the land bordering on the lines of the railway, they were enabled to place the requisite poles and wires without obstruction, and the enormous facilities afforded by this system of communication in the conduct of their business very speedily led to the introduction of telegraphs on all the main lines.

The railway companies soon perceived that a substantial addition to their revenue might be derived from permitting the public to transmit messages by their telegraphs, and that the telegraphic staff and fixed plant could at the same time serve

their original purpose as an adjunct to the efficient working of the railway undertaking.

From these beginnings the telegraph system sprang. Its success became so immediately apparent that as early as 1846 the Electric Telegraph Company was established with statutory powers, for the purpose of transmitting inland messages for the public, and not merely as an accessory to a railway line.

The example thus set was followed by the incorporation of the Submarine, the Magnetic, and the United Kingdom Telegraph Companies, under various private Acts of Parliament. Under similar Acts, by Royal Charter, or under the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856, allowing limited liability, the British and Irish Magnetic, the London District, and various other electric telegraph companies were incorporated.

The extensive use which had been made by the public of the facilities afforded by the telegraph system induced the United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company to carry its wires along the sides of the high roads, and for this purpose, after obtaining the assent of the local authorities, it proceeded to set up posts and wires by the road sides. In taking this course the Company had, however, ignored the rights of the public, which could only be abridged by the powers of an Act of Parliament; and in consequence it was speedily confronted by an indictment for infringing the public right by setting up posts along the sides of a high road in the county of Bucks. The case was tried before Baron Martin and a special jury at the Bucks Lent Assizes in 1862,* when the judge directed the jury that the highway extended over the *entire space* between the fences, whether metalled and made into a road or not. The defendants were found guilty, and the Court of Queen's Bench subsequently upheld the view of the judge as accurately defining the law, the Court saying that if the defendants wished to act as they had done, they must take the constitutional course of obtaining the sanction of the Legislature.

* Regina v. The United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company Limited, 2 B. and S. 647 n.

Consequent on this decision the United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company applied to Parliament, and obtained an Act (25 and 26 Vict. c. cxxxi.) conferring on the Company the necessary powers to lay telegraph wires in or over streets, roads, houses, and by the sides of roads and wastes, making compensation to all persons injured for damage done, giving control over the placing of the posts and wires to the local authorities, and in the interest of the public at large imposing a maximum scale of charges for the transmission of messages, which the Company could not exceed.

Several of the electric telegraph companies had previously obtained special Acts, and it became an accepted doctrine that to enable a telegraph company to work its business efficiently Parliamentary powers were necessary, and ultimately nearly all the telegraph companies obtained such powers.

In 1867 the project of vesting the administration of the entire inland telegraphic system in the Postmaster-General, on behalf of the public, which had for some time previously been advocated by the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and by the late J. Lewis Ricardo, the chairman of the Electric Telegraph Company, was forced on the attention of the authorities, the measure being eagerly supported by the public. The varying rates charged by the different companies, and the delays and irregularities in the transmission of messages, formed a well-founded grievance on the part of the public, and this, added to the sanguine expectations of the revenue derivable from the system, if placed under efficient government working, that had been formed by the officials connected with the Post-office, induced the Ministry in 1868 to bring in a Bill to enable the Postmaster-General to purchase the undertakings of the inland telegraph companies. This bill subsequently became law as the "Telegraph Act, 1868," and under its provisions, and of another Act passed in 1869, the Postmaster-General, in 1869 and 1870, acquired the undertakings of the several companies then carrying on the business of transmitting inland telegraphic messages.

Of the companies in existence at the period of the transfer of

the inland system to the Postmaster-General, the seven under-mentioned were making use of, or had at some period of their career made use of, franked message forms or adhesive stamps for franking messages, and it is these which we propose to consider.

These companies were—

1. THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
2. THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
3. THE BRITISH AND IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.
4. THE UNITED KINGDOM ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.
5. THE UNIVERSAL PRIVATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.
6. THE LONDON DISTRICT, afterwards THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.
7. THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

In addition to the above there was a company incorporated under the name of (8) BONELLI'S ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, which had caused stamps to be manufactured in anticipation that it would commence business, but inasmuch as this never was the case, these stamps can only be classed among those prepared for service but never actually issued.

1. THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company, subsequently known as the Electric and International Telegraph Company, was the oldest of all the companies, having been founded in 1846. Under the powers of its special Acts of Parliament, it organized a very extensive system of inland telegraphs, and also in connection therewith worked submarine cables to several parts of the Continent. Mr. John Lewis Ricardo was the first chairman of the Company, and so continued till 1859, and distinguished himself as one of the earliest promoters of the movement in favour of the purchase of the inland telegraph system by the government. The entire undertaking of the Company was, about the close of the year 1869, acquired by the Post-office at the price of £2,938,826.

FRANKED MESSAGE PAPER.

In 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, the Company introduced a mode of enabling the public to send telegraph messages without the necessity of making the payment at the time in cash. For this purpose it issued a "franked message paper," at the price of one shilling. On the face of this paper it was stated that "this sheet franks a message not exceeding twenty words to any of the Electric Telegraph Company's stations within a circuit of fifty miles," and that additional words were to be prepaid at the rate of 3d. per word. On the back were printed various regulations* and instructions, together with the tariff of the company's charges.

The sheet measured $7\frac{1}{4}$ by $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches, or $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres, and was of pink hand-made paper, watermarked with the name of the Company in double-lined capitals. The face was lithographed, but the various notices on the back were printed in type.† The sheets bore consecutive numbers impressed by an ordinary numbering machine, and the whole was authenticated by a hand-stamped *fac-simile* signature of the secretary of the Company, *J. S. Fourdrinier*, and by the seal of the Company, embossed in blue, in the heading of the form. This seal shows on a solid circular ground the figure of "Time," seated, grasping in his right hand a thunderbolt, and holding a scythe in his left. Beneath is the motto, "*Ne tentas aut perforce*," and in an outer circular ring is "Electric Telegraph



* Under the provisions of the Acts of Parliament regulating the telegraph service as now performed by the Post-office, the Postmaster-General is protected against responsibility in cases of mistakes, errors, delays, &c. ; but as this was not the case with private companies, they protected themselves by special conditions and regulations, which the sender of the message was obliged to accept.

† We have not been able to discover who manufactured and printed these sheets for the Company, further than to ascertain that they were not printed either by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. or by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons.

Company" in the upper part, with "Incorporated June, 1846," in the lower part. An outer circle, measuring $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter, with a festooned interior edge, encloses the whole.

These forms continued in use till the one shilling rate was raised in 1853 to 1s. 6d.* Specimens are now rare, from the fact that when used for a message they were necessarily left with the Company, and all messages were destroyed regularly at certain intervals. Those specimens which are known to survive are principally complimentary copies, and marked "Cancelled."†

SYNOPSIS.

"*Franked message paper.*"—Printed in black on rose-coloured hand-made paper, watermarked with the name of the Company, and stamped with its seal, embossed in blue.

1851. One shilling.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

First Issue.

Late in the year 1851, or early in 1852, the Company commenced to issue adhesive stamps to be attached to the paper on which the message was written. These stamps were sold to the public by the Company, and franked a message of twenty words within a certain distance, the price of the stamp varying in proportion. Accordingly three adhesive stamps were issued covering the price of a single message of twenty words over the several distances prescribed in the current tariff; *i.e.* under 50, under 100, and above 100 miles. To prepay a message by

* When these forms were introduced the tariff of the Company for a single message of twenty words was as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Within a circuit of 50 miles | . | . | . | s. | d. |
| | | | | 1 | 0 |
| Beyond 50 miles, and within a circuit of 100 miles. | . | . | . | 2 | 6 |
| Beyond a circuit of 100 miles | . | . | . | 5 | 0 |

† The "franked message paper" was, we believe, introduced specially for service at the office of the Company in the exhibition building in Hyde Park, but the use of them must have been considerable, as we have seen a specimen numbered 29,930.

means of a stamp to any place within a radius of 100 miles from the point of departure, it was necessary, therefore, to affix to it one which the Company sold to the sender for half-a-crown, described on the face of it as a "Franked Message." These franked message stamps were manufactured by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., and appear to have been lithographed by means of a transfer from an engraved plate.

DESIGN.—Within an upright rectangular frame of a reticulated design, with ornaments in the form of Maltese crosses in the angles, and measuring 52 by 67 mm., is, in the upper part, the name of the Company, in clear block letters, on an engine-turned ground. Immediately below this in a curve is **FRANKED MESSAGE**, flanked on the left with the initials J. L. R. (being those of Mr. John Lewis Ricardo, the chairman of the Company), and on the right by J. S. F., the initials of Mr. John S. Fourdrinier, the secretary.

Below this is an inscription, varying in each of the three stamps. In one the inscription is, "Of 20 words—under 50 miles,"* while in the others it is, "Of 20 words—under 100 miles," and "Of 20 words—above 100 miles." Then follows a notice from the Company, setting out the conditions on which it undertook to transmit the message to which the stamp was annexed, followed by a direction to be signed by the sender to forward the message on the Company's conditions, the stamp thus constituting an agreement between it and the sender, and thereby limiting the responsibility of the Company.

* The legend in the engraving is incorrect; the text is accurate.



The impression was in black, on unwatermarked coloured paper, and the stamps were gummed at the back, but not perforated. In the right upper corner was "No." and they were numbered consecutively by a numbering machine. The colours were as follows :

Under 50 miles, pink.
 „ 100 „ deep-blue.
 Above 100 „ white.

Second Issue.

The stamps above described did not remain long in use, and early in 1853, in consequence of changes introduced into the



Company's tariff, an alteration was made by the suppression of that portion of the design consisting of "20 words—under 50 miles," &c., and substituting the value in its place. In all other respects the design was identically the same, and the issue was lithographed from the same plate and on similar paper. The stamps were also numbered consecutively as before ; but as the franking power of the stamp

was now expressed in money, and not in the distance the message was to be conveyed, the number was augmented. The series consisted of the following values :

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Three-pence | on light yellow paper |
| One Shilling | „ fawn „ |
| One Shilling and Sixpence | „ pink „ |
| Two Shillings | „ light blue „ |
| Three Shillings | „ deep blue „ |
| Four Shillings | „ white „ |

Third Issue.

In 1861 the Company determined to modify the manner in which its responsibility in regard to the message should be limited, both in its Continental and inland services, by rendering the stamp available for franking purposes only when it was affixed to a message written on one of the Company's printed forms, in which the conditions were stated and signed by the sender, and not in any other manner.

With the view of keeping the accounts and details of the two services separate, a series of stamps specially destined for each service was issued, both of which were designed and engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, of Great Winchester Street, London, by whom they were printed by lithographic transfer, gummed, and perforated.

(1) *The Continental Service Stamps.*

DESIGN.—The design consists of a rectangular transverse oblong corded frame, measuring 36 by 26 mm. Within this is the value in full, in white block letters, on a transverse oval-shaped engine-turned ground, enclosed within a border of pearls. Extending over the top and the two ends of this oval is the inscription **THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY**, the initials **R. G.*** and **J. S. F.**, both in monogram, being also introduced. On a scroll below is, "This stamp only franks messages to the **CONTINENT** written on the Company's printed forms." In each of the lower angles is the date 1861 on a solid disc, and between these is "No.," with a blank left for the insertion of the number, which is done in black by an ordinary numbering machine.



The design, as engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, was transferred to stone, with the necessary alterations to adapt it to the several values, and was lithographed in colour on white un-

* The initials **R. G.** are those of the Hon. Robert Grimston, who in 1859 succeeded Mr. John Lewis Ricardo as chairman of the Company.

watermarked paper, and perforated 12½.* The stamps were surcharged vertically with a broad black band.

Threepence, black.

Eightpence (‡)

Four shillings (‡)

Eight „ (‡)

These stamps of the Continental series were used only for paying the rates on messages to Denmark, Hamburg, and Hanover.

(2) *The Inland Service Stamps.*

DESIGN.—The design consists of a rectangular upright oblong, measuring 23 by 31½ mm., having a white engrailed border. At the top is TELEGRAPH, and at the bottom 18—STAMP—61, in white characters on solid ground. On an irregularly-shaped oval blank tablet is inscribed THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, in German text, with the initials R. G. and J. S. F. below, separated by crossed thunderbolts: Below this is “No.,” followed by the consecutive number, which is printed in black figures by a numbering machine, while on a solid tablet below is the value in full in white block letters. This is followed by a notice in small Italics: “*This stamp will only frank messages written on the Company's printed forms.*”

The design, as engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, was transferred to stone, and the necessary alterations made for adapting it to the several values. It was lithographed in colour,

* When the transfer of the undertaking of this Company to the Postmaster-General took place, the whole of the papers of the Company were destroyed by order of the directors, together with the remaining stock of stamps and the plates from which they were constructed. The stamps issued by the Company have therefore become exceptionally rare; and of the Continental series, which only continued in use for a short period and for a limited purpose, we have not been fortunate enough to be able to find any specimens, except one of the lowest value, from which the above engraving is taken, perforated 12½. The denominations of the other values have been given to us by the Post-office by reference to some of the books of the Company, which show the various stamps made use of by it. We are informed by a gentleman formerly in the service of the Company that the black band drawn across the face of the stamps for the Continental service was introduced solely with the view of facilitating the distinguishing of the stamps of the two series, and not with the object of cancelling the stamp.

on white unwatermarked paper, and perforated 12. Imperforate specimens of some of the values are occasionally met with, though these appear to be proofs; for those which we have seen bear no numbers on the face of them.

On the stamps as at first issued the numbering was printed on the engine-turned groundwork, but we have met with copies of the one shilling and the four shillings where this groundwork has been removed, and a white tablet introduced to receive the numbering. These are evidently from a second or later transfer, as is shown by the numbering, and lead to the supposition that the demand for these two values necessitated additional supplies, which were probably not required in the case of the others, although at the same time it is by no means improbable that among these latter some may exist where a similar change was made. No such instances have, however, been met with by us. A further proof of the unequal demand for some values is shown from the circumstance that copies of the one shilling are found perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, a gauge which, so far as we have been able to ascertain, was employed by Messrs. Waterlow and Co. subsequently to that of 12. It is somewhat remarkable that in the succeeding issues, or printings off of these stamps, the engine-turned ground was retained or restored in all the values with the exception of the one shilling, as is evidenced from the unused copies in hand when the undertaking of the Company was handed over to the Postmaster-General. The various values and colours of the stamps of this issue were as follows:

- Threepence, ochre-brown.
- One shilling, orange-yellow.
- Eighteenpence, rose-pink.
- Two shillings, green.
- Two shillings and sixpence, chocolate-brown.
- Three shillings, blue.
- Four shillings, black.
- Five shillings, purple.

Fourth Issue.

This can scarcely be considered as a new issue, but as Mr. Henry Weaver had, on the 1st January, 1864, succeeded Mr.

Fourdrinier in the office of secretary, his initials, H. W., figured for the future on the stamps in place of those of Mr. Fourdrinier.



No other alteration was made in the design, and the original date of 1861 was still retained. The variations in colour in many of the values, especially in the three lowest ones, lead to the supposition that the stamps of the various values were reprinted off and supplied in batches, according to the requirements of the Company. A difference in perforation

is also noticeable, those first printed being perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, while about the year 1867 a perforation of 10 was introduced, and so continued to the period when the undertaking was transferred to the Post-office at the close of 1869.

Two new values from the same original plate were introduced into this issue, the sixpence and the ten shillings; while, on the other hand, we fail to find specimens of the half-crown and five shillings, which, though in existence when the undertaking was handed over to the Post-office, do not appear to have been reprinted with the initials of Mr. Henry Weaver.

The following are the values, colours, and perforations of the copies which we have seen :

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Threepence, ochre-brown. | Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 10. |
| Sixpence, bright vermilion | ” ” |
| One shilling, orange-yellow | ” ” |
| Eighteen pence, pale carmine | ” ” |
| Two shillings, green | ” ” |
| Three shillings, blue | ” ” |
| Four shillings, black | $12\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Ten shillings* | |

* No specimen of this stamp is found in the Post-office collection, and we are unable to give either its colour or its perforation. All that we know is that it was an existing value as used by the Company when the undertaking was handed over to the Postmaster-General, and we have been assured by a gentleman formerly attached to the Company, that it belonged to this impression, and not to that bearing the initials J. S. F.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

1852. "Franked Message," no value indicated. Impression in black on coloured paper. Imperforate.

Under 50 miles, pink.
Under 100 miles, deep blue.
Above 100 miles, white.

Second Issue.

1853. "Franked Message." Impression in black on coloured paper. Imperforate.

Threepence, on light yellow paper.
One shilling, on fawn paper.
One shilling and sixpence, on pink paper.
Two shillings, on light blue paper.
Three shillings, on deep blue paper.
Four shillings, on white paper.

Third Issue.(1) *For Continental Service.*

1861. Impression in colour on white paper. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and probably 12.*

Threepence, black.
Eightpence (?)
Four shillings (?)
Eight ,, (?)

(2) *For Inland Service.*

1861. Impression in colour on white paper. R. G.—J. S. F. Perforated 12 and some $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Threepence, ochre-brown.
One shilling, orange-yellow.
Eightpence, rose-pink.

* During the time that the third and fourth issues were current the perforations made by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons went through the variations of 12, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, and 10. It is impossible therefore to attempt to classify the perforations, especially of the third issue, of which specimens are so rare, and the information we have been able to obtain has been of the scantiest possible kind.

Two shillings, green.
 Two shillings and sixpence, chocolate-brown.
 Three shillings, blue.
 Four shillings, black.
 Five shillings, purple.

VARIETIES.

One shilling, orange-yellow. Imperforate.
 Two shillings, blue. "
 One shilling, orange-yellow. White tablet. Perf. 12½.
 Four shillings, black. " Perf. 12.

Fourth Issue.*Inland Service.*

1864. Impression in colour on white paper. R. G.—H. W.
 Perforated 12½ and 10.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Threepence, ochre-brown. | Perforated 12½ and 10. |
| Sixpence, bright vermilion | " " |
| One shilling, orange-yellow | " " |
| Two shillings, green | " " |
| Three shillings, blue | " " |
| Four shillings, black | 12½ " |
| Ten shillings (?) | |

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE STAMPS.

Special stamps were prepared by the Company for the use of its directors, the name of each particular director appearing on the face of the stamp issued to him. This stamp being affixed to a message written on an "(A) message form," and signed by the director, franked it to its destination.*

* We are not able to give the date when these stamps were first issued, but from the fact of the initials of Mr. J. L. Ricardo appearing upon them they must have existed prior to 1859. They continued in use until the undertaking was handed over to the Post-office, when the plates were destroyed. The stamps were furnished by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, in batches of 100 at a time, as each director required. The specimen from which the above engraving is taken was one prepared for the use of Captain Huish, one of the directors, whose name appears on the face; but the other directors, the Honble. R. Grimston, G. P. Bidder, Esq., Thomas Brassey, Esq., &c., were furnished with similar stamps with their names inserted on the face, entitling them to send messages written on the Company's forms free of payment.

DESIGN.—The design consisted of an upright rectangular narrow frame, measuring 25 by 26 mm., composed of pearls on a plain black ground, with Maltese crosses in the angles. Within this frame is "No." (with consecutive numbering in black), below which is the following legend, "THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPY," flanked by the initials J. L. R. and J. S. F. "DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE for the use of [director's name in block letters] only. This (A) message must be signed by the Director, and be sent without prepayment." No value was indicated.

The stamp was prepared by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, and was lithographed on blue unwatermarked paper, gummed but not perforated. When Mr. Grimston succeeded Mr. Ricardo as chairman in 1859, and Mr. Weaver succeeded Mr. Fourdrinier as secretary in January, 1864, the corresponding changes were made in the initials of the chairman and secretary on the stamps as fresh supplies were ordered.



SYNOPSIS.

Before 1859. Directors' message stamp (J. L. R.—J. S. F.), black on blue paper.

1859 to 1863. Directors' message stamp (R. G.—J. S. F.), black on blue paper.*

1864 to 1868. Directors' message stamp (R. G.—H. W.), black on blue paper.

2. THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company was established in 1850; with the object of working submarine telegraph cables under concessions obtained from the French and Belgian Governments, and was the great pioneer of submarine telegraphy in this country.

Under the provisions of the Act of 1868 the Postmaster-

* This has not been seen by us, but we insert it as there can be but little doubt of its existence.

General acquired submarine cables to Holland and Germany from the Electric and from Reuter's Companies, but this Company, not working any separate inland service of its own, and not being in competition with the Government monopoly, was left in possession of its cables, and still carries on its business between England and the Continent, transmitting through its eight or nine cables, which contain thirty-five conductors, an average of not less than 8,500 messages per day.

The chief offices of the Company were first established at 30, Cornhill, from whence they were removed to 58, Threadneedle Street, and are now at 2, Throgmorton Avenue, all in the City of London.

In November, 1861, during the period when Mr. L. Walter Courtenay was the secretary of the company, Messrs. De La Rue and Co. engraved and manufactured for the service of the company a series of five adhesive stamps, of the respective values of fourpence-halfpenny, three shillings and ninepence, four shillings, seven shillings and sixpence, and eight shillings, the object of which was probably as follows: The three shillings and ninepence and four shillings were for the prepayment of messages of ten words to Denmark and Germany respectively, and their doubles, seven shillings and sixpence and eight shillings, for messages of twenty words to the same countries, while the fourpence-halfpenny was for additional words. The four shillings also represented the charge to Paris.

The general design of all these stamps is identical, except the variations in the values and the number of words for which the stamp is applicable. There were separate dies for each value.

DESIGN.—The design consists of S. T. in monogram of fancy capitals, in an upright solid oval, round which is a serpent. Above is SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY, and below is the value in full. To the left is UNINSURED MESSAGE, and to the



right the number of WORDS INCLUDING ADDRESS that the stamp in question would prepay. Small circles with the value in figures are introduced into the spandrels, and a fancy border enclosing the whole forms an upright rectangle, measuring 23 by $42\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The impression was in mauve on white surfaced unwater-marked paper. The stamps were gummed and perforated 14.

During a temporary failure in the supply of the four shillings value the eight shillings stamp was utilized by surcharging it in red, across the face in four lines, with the words, TEMPORARY STAMP FOUR SHILLINGS, the value being also effaced by a line.*

SYNOPSIS.

1861-1862. Impression in mauve on plain white surfaced paper. Perf 14.

| | | |
|---|----|-----------------|
| Fourpence halfpenny | . | mauve on white. |
| Three shillings and ninepence | .. | .. |
| Four shillings | . | .. |
| Seven shillings and sixpence | . | .. |
| Eight shillings | . | .. |
| Four shillings (surcharged on eight shillings), red on mauve. | | |

3. THE ENGLISH AND IRISH AND THE BRITISH AND IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

In dealing with these companies, or rather the various companies which ultimately became known under the above names, it may be convenient to give a short *resumé* of their history.

By an Act of Parliament, passed in the year 1851, the Magnetic Telegraph Company was incorporated with a capital

* The use of these stamps must have been very limited. We have never met with any specimens, and their very existence is scarcely remembered by any one connected with the Company. No copies are to be found at the Post-office, nor have any been preserved by the Company, and the whole of the telegrams, papers, and other like documents relating to the period when these stamps were in use have been long since destroyed.

of £100,000, and in June, 1852, this Company obtained a Royal Charter, under which the style was changed to that of "The English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company," the liability of the members being limited, and the capital fixed at £300,000.

In the year 1850 Parliament passed an Act incorporating a Company under the style of "The British Electric Telegraph Company," with a capital of £100,000; and in the year 1851, another Act, incorporating "The European and American Electric Printing Telegraph Company," also with an authorized capital of £100,000. These two last named Companies were, in the year 1853, amalgamated by Royal Charter, and formed into a new Company, under the name of "The British Telegraph Company," with a capital of £300,000.

On 22nd April, 1857, "The British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company, Limited," with a capital of £600,000, was registered under the Limited Liability Act to carry out an amalgamation which had been arranged between the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company and the British Telegraph Company, both of which consequently became merged in the new undertaking, which thus represented after its formation the three companies created by Act of Parliament and the two incorporated by Royal Charter; and it continued to work its system of telegraphs until the whole undertaking was acquired in 1870 by the Postmaster-General under the provisions of the Act of 1868.

Mr. Edward Brailsford Bright was the secretary of the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company, and after its amalgamation with the British Telegraph Company he became secretary and general manager to the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company, Sir Charles Bright being the consulting engineer to the new Company, which had its head offices at 2, Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, and its central station in London, at 58, Threadneedle Street, where also the Submarine Telegraph Company was located, the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company working in connection with it.

First Issue.

In 1853 the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company issued a series of frank stamps to prepay the charges on telegrams. These stamps were prepared by Messrs. Mawdesley and Co., of 2, Castle Street, Liverpool. They were all identical in design, except the figures of value, the entire series consisting of five values—1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.*, and 5*s.*, which latter represented the rate for a single message of twenty words between England and Ireland.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a long streamer flowing from the head of a spear at the left side of the stamp, and making three folds over the face, the background showing a large eight-rayed star. On a tablet above is FRANK STAMP, and on the upper and lower folds of the streamer is the inscription, THE ENGLISH AND IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH CO., the middle one bearing the *fac-simile* signature E. B. BRIGHT, SECY. Below this, on the star, is VALUE, the portion above being left blank to receive the numbering. The figures of value are inserted immediately below the word VALUE. The heraldic emblems of the rose, shamrock, and thistle are twined up the spear on the left side, and also fill in the lower part of the stamp, the background of plain horizontal lines being relieved by ten small five-rayed stars distributed in various parts. The whole forms an upright rectangle, measuring 35 by 43 mm.



The stamps were printed in colour by lithography, on thin white wove unwatermarked paper, and were gummed, but not perforated. The values and colours are as follows :

- One shilling, black.
- One shilling and sixpence, lilac.
- Two shillings and sixpence, blue.
- Four shillings, pale red.
- Five shillings, green.

Second Issue.

After the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company became merged in the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company, in 1857, the rates of messages were reduced, commencing with a minimum charge of 6*d.* for a short distance, and in consequence a new set of stamps was ordered, which, like the former, were prepared by Messrs. Mawdesley and Co.

DESIGN.—The design was much simplified, consisting of an upright rectangular frame, measuring 26½ by 30 mm. In the upper part is a tablet, inscribed FRANK STAMP, and the value in



full is in a tablet below. Across the face of the stamp is a tablet to receive the numbering, which is sometimes inserted in black and sometimes in red, and above this is the name of the Company in block letters, BRITISH AND IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH CO. LIMITED, while below is EDWARD B. BRIGHT, SECTY., in script. The rose, shamrock, and thistle figure as ornaments in other parts of the

design, which slightly differs in detail in each value.

The stamps were lithographed in black, on coloured wove paper, watermarked with thunderbolts and with the maker's name.* They were gummed, and perforated 13½. There are two types of the eighteenpence—one where the value is in figures, and the other where it is in full, of which probably the former is the older, as when the undertaking was transferred to the Post-office a few copies of the values then current (among which the 2*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* are not found) were printed as specimens, and the eighteenpence is that of the value in full. These reprints may readily be recognized, as they are not numbered on the face, and are neither perforated nor gummed.

The 3*d.*, 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.*, 3*s.*, and 4*s.* are also found perforated 13, instead of 13½, and probably the other values exist similarly perforated. In the absence of sufficient information we

* M. Moens catalogues the 2*s.* with special watermark, but this is only a portion of the papermaker's name.

are unable to determine accurately which of these perforations came first in point of date, and the same remark applies to the numbering in black and red. The existence of two gauges of the perforation naturally leads to the supposition that there was more than one printing of some of the values; for it must be borne in mind that this issue was in use for many years.

The following are the values, colours of the paper, and perforations, as found by us:

- Threepence, on white. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Sixpence, on flesh. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- One shilling, on lavender. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- 1s. 6d., on grey. Perf. 13.
- One shilling and sixpence, on grey. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Two shillings, on bright yellow. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- 2s. 6d., on pale olive-yellow. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.
- Three shillings, on pink. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Four shillings, on pale green. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Five shillings, on pale blue. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

1853. Impression in colour on white paper. Imperforate.

- One shilling, black.
- One shilling and sixpence, lilac.
- Two shillings and sixpence, blue.
- Four shillings, pale red.
- Five shillings, green.

Second Issue.

1857. Impression in black on coloured paper. Perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.

- Threepence, on white. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Sixpence, on flesh. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- One shilling, on lavender. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- 1s. 6d., on grey. Perf. 13.
- One shilling and sixpence, on grey. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Two shillings, on bright yellow. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- 2s. 6d., on pale olive-yellow. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.
- Three shillings, on pink. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Four shillings, on pale green. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ and 13.
- Five shillings, on pale blue. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.

4. THE UNITED KINGDOM ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.

This Company was incorporated 24th July, 1860, to work several patents for improvements in the art of telegraphy granted to Thomas Allan, and to exercise certain privileges which had been conferred on him and his associates by a private Act of Parliament. The offices of the Company at the commencement were at 101, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, and William Andrews was the secretary; but its head office was afterwards transferred to Nos. 237-247, Gresham House, and Mr. Andrews was then described both as manager and secretary. The main purpose of this Company was to bring into operation a low uniform rate of charge for messages, adopting a similar principle to that which guided Sir Rowland Hill in establishing the uniform penny postage rate. In 1861, when this Company began to transmit messages for the public, the scale of charges then in general use by other companies, for a message not above twenty words, names and addresses of sender and receiver not reckoned, was—

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| For a distance not exceeding 50 miles | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| | | 1 | 6 |
| „ „ above 50, but not exceeding 100 miles | | 2 | 0 |
| „ „ „ 100 „ 150 „ | | 3 | 0 |
| For 150 miles and upwards | | 4 | 0 |

This Company commenced with the experiment of a uniform rate of 1s. for like messages irrespective of distance, but after four years' experience was compelled, in July, 1865, to revise and increase its charges to the following scale—

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| For a distance not exceeding 100 miles | | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
| | | 1 | 0 |
| „ „ exceeding 100 miles, not exceeding 200 | | 1 | 4 |
| „ „ „ 200 | | 2 | 0 |

When the Company, in 1869, came to claim compensation from the Postmaster-General for the purchase of its plant and goodwill, it took great credit to itself for being the pioneer in adopting the system of uniform charges, and the large sum of

£562,264 9s. 11d. was awarded to it, an amount not the less surprising because it was virtually prescribed by the terms of the "Telegraph Act, 1868," though in form settled by Mr. F. J. Scudamore, acting as arbitrator on behalf of the Government, and Mr. A. A. Croll, the Company's arbitrator. At the period when the purchase was made, this and the Electric Telegraph Company were the two principal companies engaged in carrying on the inland telegraph business of the kingdom, and besides being interested in a very extensive system of communication over which it had control, it was possessed of some special privileges granted by a private Act of Parliament.

From an early period in 1862 the Company adopted the use of adhesive stamps, and issued them to such persons as were desirous of employing them.* These stamps were type-printed, and were all engraved and manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, March, 1862.

DESIGN.—The general design consists of an upright rectangle on an engine-turned ground, with the name of the Company in full in six lines, one word in each line, in shaded double-lined open Roman capitals, surrounded by a solid frame on which are inscriptions, that on the upper portion of the frame being UNINSURED MESSAGE, and that on the right INCLUDING ADDRESSES, both in thin block letters. In the lower part of the frame is the value in full, THREEPENCE, SIXPENCE, or ONE SHILLING, and on the left side FIVE WORDS, TEN WORDS,



* The use of these adhesive stamps appears to have been considerable, as we find from the accounts of the Company for 1864 that a sum of £2169 1s. 11d. is inserted as representing the amount of stamps sold to the public, but not yet presented or used. In subsequent accounts the item is dealt with differently, and the amount of stamps in suspense cannot be calculated; the business transacted by the Company was, however, of a very extensive nature.

or TWENTY WORDS, the inscription on the left side of the frame varying according to the value in full inserted in the lower portion, threepence representing five words, sixpence ten words, &c. The stamp measures 25 by 30 mm.

The series consisted of three values ; viz., threepence, sixpence, and one shilling, and for each of these values a separate die was prepared, and the pattern of the background modified in each stamp.

The impression was on white glazed wove paper, not water-marked. The one shilling value was the first which was prepared, and the earliest copies of this show that it was printed on a safety paper, similar to that employed for the fourpence adhesive postage stamp, though the blue tinge is less marked.

The colour of the threepence was yellow-ochre, that of the sixpence pink, and that of the one shilling pale lilac. Each value was subsequently surcharged in black with consecutive figures.

The gumming and the general appearance of the stamps show plainly the *atelier* from which they proceeded. Being of a size very nearly approaching to that of the five shillings postage stamp, they were in like manner perforated 15.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, 1863.

DESIGN.—The rectangular oblong was made transverse instead of upright, and two new values were added. On an engine-turned groundwork is the name of the Company in full in white Roman capitals, similar to those in the former issue, in five lines, the words UNITED KINGDOM occupying the first line. Below is a white tablet extending the whole length of the stamp, on which is inscribed in coloured block letters,



"This stamp will only frank messages sent on the conditions

printed on the Company's message form." The other three sides are enclosed in a solid frame of colour, with floriated ornaments in the upper corners. On the frame to the left is UNINSURED, and to the right MESSAGE, both in white block letters, and at the top the value in full in Roman capitals, also in white.

The background is composed of short horizontal lines, so arranged as to give it a wavy appearance.*

The impression was on white glazed wove paper, not water-marked. The values and colours were as follows: threepence, orange-yellow; sixpence, rose; one shilling, mauve; one shilling and sixpence, green; and two shillings, brown. Each stamp was surcharged in black by machine with consecutive numbers. The gum was the same as before, and the perforation 15.

We have also seen copies of the one shilling, for which doubtless the demand was far greater than for the other values, which are apparently lithographed from a transfer from the original plate. Though printed in the same colour as the type-printed copies, they are readily distinguishable from the latter by the blurred background, and by the paper not having the glaze upon it as in those previously described. They were probably manufactured by another firm than that of Messrs. De La Rue and Co.

SYNOPSIS.

first Issue.

1862. Upright rectangular oblong, printed in colour on plain white glazed paper. Perf. 15.

Threepence, yellow-ochre.

Sixpence, rose.

One shilling, violet.

VARIETY.

One shilling, violet, on bluish safety paper.

* The disposition of these lines varies somewhat in each value, but in such small proportions that though the form of the wave evidently differs, yet it is impossible to point out intelligibly wherein the difference actually consists.

Second Issue.

1863. Transverse rectangular oblong, printed in colour on plain white glazed paper. Perf. 15.

Threepence, orange-yellow.

Sixpence, rose.

One shilling, violet.

One shilling and sixpence, green.

Two shillings, brown.

186-(?). The same lithographed on plain white wove paper. Perf. 15.

One shilling, violet.

5. THE UNIVERSAL PRIVATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company, the head office of which was first at No. 448, West Strand, London, and then at No. 4, Adelaide Street, Strand, Mr. Lewis Cooke Hertslet being the secretary, was formed chiefly for the purpose of putting up private lines of telegraph wires and renting the use of them to their customers. Its operations, as may be inferred, were mainly confined to the larger cities and towns, as London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow. It was moreover the proprietor of the line of telegraph wires between Glasgow and Helensburgh, N.B., known as the Western Highland Telegraph; and this line was worked by the Company until it was purchased by the Postmaster-General, under the provisions of the Act of 1868, for the sum of £184,421.

In 1864 the Company, for the purpose of paying the charges on messages transmitted on the line worked by it, issued three stamps, of the values of threepence, sixpence, and one shilling, the first of which we have not seen, nor is any copy of it to be found at the Post-office; but it was doubtless of the same design as that of the sixpence and one shilling, differing only in the insertion of the value. In a list at the Post-Office a fourth stamp of the value of ninepence is also mentioned, but we have been unable to obtain any other information concerning it.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a white upright oval band, enclosed in an upright rectangular frame, composed of rusticated ornaments, measuring 27 by 32 mm. In the spandrels are white discs, with the figures 1, 8, 6, 4. On the oval band is the inscription UNIVERSAL at the top, PRIVATE to the right, TELEGRAPH below, and COMPANY on the left. The interior of the oval has a groundwork of lines radiating towards the centre, which is interrupted by a plain white tablet, on which is the consecutive number in blue. Above this tablet is SIX, and below PENCE, or ONE and SHILLING as the case may be, in coloured block letters.



The impression is in colour, on white wove unwatermarked paper, and the stamps are gummed and perforated 12½.

We are unable to state by whom they were designed and manufactured, but most probably in Glasgow, as they do not bear the impress of London workmanship.

SYNOPSIS.

1864. Lithographed in colour on plain white wove paper. Perf. 12½.

Threepence, (?).
Sixpence, brown.
Ninepence, (?).
One shilling, mauve.

6. THE LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

This Company was established in 1859, under the Limited Liability Act, with the object of serving the London district with telegraph service at cheap rates. At first the chief office was at No. 58, Threadneedle Street, but was afterwards removed to No. 90, Cannon Street, both in the city of London. The first series of stamps was issued in 1862, and at that time Alfred Ogan was the secretary to the Company; and at the date of the second issue, in 1865, Charles Curtoys was the secretary

and manager. Both series were designed and manufactured for the Company by Messrs. Truscott and Sons, of Suffolk Lane, London.

An examination of the values shows that the standard rate of charge for an ordinary message within the Metropolitan district was sixpence, a rate found so convenient to the public that by far the largest part of the telegraph business within this district was transacted by this Company.

Shortly after the passing of the Act of 1868 the Company was re-organized under the name of the "London and Provincial District Telegraph Company Limited," with the view of extending its operations to the provinces; but before this extension was carried into effect the undertaking was acquired by the Postmaster-General, and the working passed into the hands of the Post-office. Under its new title the Company did not make any issue of stamps.

First Issue.

Date of Issue, 1862.

DESIGN.—The series was composed of three values—threepence, fourpence, and sixpence—all of similar design, with the exception of the figure of value. This design consists of a



large shaded figure of value, 20 mm. in height, with D (for pence) added, across which is printed in block letters, in two lines, "LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH COMP.", with the addition LIMITED in Italic capitals in a third line. Below is the *fac-simile* signature A. OGAN, followed by *Secretary* in Italics. Above these inscriptions is "No.," with the distinguishing number

of the stamp filled in by a numbering machine—in red for the values of 3d. and 4d., and in black for the 6d. The whole is enclosed in a double-lined upright rectangular frame, ornamented in the angles, and measuring 26 by 31 mm.

The stamps were printed by lithography in black, on coloured unwatermarked paper, were gummed at the back, and perforated 13.

The following is a list of the values and colours of the paper :

Threepence, on bright yellow coloured paper, numbered in red.

Fourpence, on blue coloured paper, numbered in red.

Sixpence, on vermilion-faced paper, numbered in black.

Second Issue.

Date of Issue, 1865.

DESIGN.—In the background is a large figure of value, and D shaded as in the preceding issue, across which is a solid tablet, inscribed in block letters MESSAGE STAMP, on a black ground. In a curve above is LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH, with COMPANY, LIMITED, within the curve. Below CHIEF-OFFICE—90, CANNON STREET—No.—CHARLES CURTOYS—SECY. AND MANAGER—in five lines, all in an upright rectangular frame, measuring 32 by 25 mm., composed of interlacing lines, with solid quadrant-shaped blocks in the angles, on which are introduced L. D. T. CO.



There are two sets of the stamps in this issue, which only consists of two values—threepence and sixpence—but we are unable to state which of the two sets comes first in point of date. In one the paper is coloured, and the numbers are inserted by machine, and in the other the paper is faced with colour, and the numbers inserted by hand.

(a) Lithographed in black, on coloured unwatermarked paper, perforated 11½, and gummed. The numbers are inserted by machine, in black, in small block figures.

Threepence, on yellow paper.

Sixpence, on pink paper.

(b) Lithographed in black, on unwatermarked paper, faced with colour, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and gummed. The numbers are inserted by hand in black ink.

Threepence, on paper faced with greenish blue.

Sixpence " " vermilion.

These stamps continued to be used by the Company until the undertaking was transferred to the Postmaster-General.

SYNOPSIS.

First Issue.

1862. Lithographed in black, on coloured paper. Perf. 13.

Threepence, on bright yellow, numbered in red.

Fourpence, on blue, numbered in red.

Printed in black, on paper faced with colour. Perf. 13.

Sixpence, vermilion, numbered in black.

Second Issue.

1865. (a) Lithographed in black, on coloured paper. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Numbers inserted by machine.

Threepence, on yellow.

Sixpence, on pink.

(b) Lithographed in black, on paper faced with colour. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Hand numbered.

Threepence, on greenish-blue.

Sixpence, on vermilion.

7. THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Following the example of the other main lines of railway, the South-Eastern Railway Company had established a system of telegraphic communication along its lines of railway, which, subject to the requirements of its own service, it allowed the public to use on payment of the rates of charge fixed by the Company's tariff.

In the year 1860 the Company opened an office near the camp at Aldershot, and for the convenience of the military authorities, who were reluctant to deal with cash payments for such small amounts, it provided a series of frank stamps, which though

created for this special object were equally available for telegraphic messages over other parts of the Company's lines.

These stamps were issued on 1st September, 1860, and were designed and manufactured for the company by the late Mr. Charles Whiting. They remained in use till the 1st February, 1870, when the Company's lines of telegraph were transferred to the Postmaster-General under the provisions of the Act of 1868, and the plates from which the stamps were printed were handed over to the Railway Company and destroyed. The use of these stamps was small, only two printings, amounting together to 25,000 copies, having been made.

DESIGN.—The design consists of the arms of the Company with supporters, and its motto of **ONWARD**, on a solid upright oval ground, all enclosed in an oval band, in the upper part of which on a white ground is **SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY**, in coloured Old English letters, and in the lower part the value in full, in white block letters on a solid coloured ground. On the solid ground within the inner oval and immediately above the arms is **ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH**, and below **FRANK**, in small Roman capitals. The whole is enclosed in an upright rectangular frame, measuring $38\frac{1}{2}$ by $46\frac{1}{2}$ mm.,



within which at the left upper corner is "No." in white shaded letters, and this is followed by the consecutive numbers stamped in black. The background within the frame is of a diaper pattern.

The sheet consisted of twenty-four stamps in four rows of six in each row, printed in typography on white hand-made paper, watermarked with the letters S. E. R. in double-lined letters one above the other in the centre of each stamp.

The colour of the impression varied in the different values, which were all exactly similar in type with the exception of the

value. The stamps were gummed, and perforated 12. Specimens are extremely rare, the copies used in the service having been, as in other like cases, all destroyed with the old telegrams at certain intervals, and the unused stock in the Company's possession was destroyed many years since, except a few copies preserved as specimens of the engraver's work. These latter were not perforated nor numbered, and may thus be readily distinguished from those which were actually prepared for issue. As specimens of typographic art the series may be considered very creditable to the manufacturer; and if the somewhat large size of the stamps is not objected to, they are amongst the best of the private telegraph stamps.

SYNOPSIS.

1st Sept., 1860. Impression on white hand-made paper, water-marked S. E. R. Perf. 12.

Ninepence, red.

One shilling, orange-yellow.

One shilling and twopence, black.

One shilling and sixpence, lilac.

Two shillings and threepence, red-brown.

Two shillings and ninepence, green.

8. BONELLI'S ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED.

This Company was incorporated in the year 1861, under the Limited Liability Act, 1856, for the purpose of working an invention of Signor Bonelli. Its registered office was at 69, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Mr. Simon Rendall being the secretary and solicitor to the Company.

Experimental trials of the invention were made privately, and with a certain amount of success, but the Company never arrived at the stage of transmitting messages for the public, nor of possessing any line of telegraphic communication. In anticipation, however, of the practical success of the invention, the Company caused a series of stamps to be prepared by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, who designed and printed them.

DESIGN.—The design consists of a figure of Mercury with the Caduceus (after the famous statue by Giovanni di Bologna,

in the Bargello at Florence) in a circular garter, inscribed with the motto *NON USITATÂ NEC TENUI FERAR PENNÂ*. Above is a plain tablet, on which is inserted the value in full, *THREEPENOE*, *SIXPENOE*, &c., and a similar tablet below is reserved for the numbering. The whole is enframed in a border, in which are introduced *ELECTRIC* on the left, *BONELLI'S* on the top, *TELEGRAPH* on the right, and *COY. LIMITED* at the bottom, in white block letters.



Four values were prepared; viz., three-pence, sixpence, ninepence, and one shilling,* but we have only been able to meet with copies of the threepence and sixpence.

These two values differ in the details very considerably. The sixpence is better executed, being lithographed from an engraving on copper, while in the threepence this is not the case. The frame of the sixpence is a rectangle measuring 26 by 32 mm., while that of the threepence measures 26 by 33½, owing to greater depth being given to the lower tablet. The frame of the sixpence is also composed of fine wavy lines, and the ground of network, while in the threepence the lines of the frame are straight, and the ground is of horizontal lines powdered with *fleurs de lys*. Both are gummed, and printed on plain white paper, but the sixpence is perforated 13 and the threepence 12½. In the threepence the numbers are small, preceded by "No.," and inserted in black by a type numbering machine, while in the threepence they are larger, and inserted in red-brown, by a hand machine.

* Our authority for introducing these two latter values is information derived from the Post-office, of which nevertheless we are inclined to doubt the correctness, as it seems somewhat inconsistent that, while the two smaller values are frequently met with, the two higher ones have not to our knowledge been seen, though in point of ever representing a monetary value all the stamps are on a similar footing, having never been called into use.

The stamps are readily procurable, having never been employed for telegraph purposes, and having consequently never been used or destroyed.

SYNOPSIS.

186-. Lithographed in colour on plain white paper.

Threepence, reddish-brown (shades). Perf. 13.

Sixpence, black. Perf. 12½.

” ” Unperforated (variety).

Ninepence (?)

One shilling (?)

No other designs or proofs for stamps issued by any Private Telegraph Company, save those above mentioned, have come under our notice, except that we have seen proofs of the stamps of The Submarine Telegraph Company struck off in black on white enamelled card by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. according to their usual practice.

II.

POST-OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

IN July, 1868, the Legislature passed the Act already referred to enabling the Postmaster-General to acquire and work electric telegraphs in connection with the administration of the Post-office.

The leading provisions of the Act authorized the Postmaster-General to acquire the undertakings of the companies or persons engaged in transmitting messages for money by electric or other telegraphs, or mechanical agencies, within the United Kingdom, vesting them in the Post-office Department, and establishing a uniform rate of charge for messages throughout the kingdom.

The vast social and commercial importance of this means of communication seemed to justify the step in one point of view, while the estimates both of the cost to the country and the revenue likely to be realized appeared to show that the plan would prove a financial success. The fact also that the Government could protect itself by creating a monopoly was called in aid by the promoters of the movement.

A further Act was passed in 1869, conferring on the Postmaster-General the exclusive right of conveying public telegraphic messages, and a monopoly was established in favour of the Post-office in regard to such messages similar to that enjoyed by it in regard to letters.*

* On referring to the Act of 1869 it will be seen that the definition of "telegraph" is extremely wide, and so extensive that it has recently been held to cover the telephone, and to confer on the Postmaster-General the sole privilege of publicly using this invention, which was not even discovered at the time that the Act was passed; but inasmuch as the telephone transmits messages or communications by the instrumentality of electric signals, it has been held to fall within the language employed by the Legislature.

The anticipations expressed as to the cost of acquisition of the telegraph system were not verified by the result ; for, chiefly owing to the large sums awarded to the various railway companies by way of compensation for their telegraphic lines, the total price paid far exceeded the estimate, while it was necessary immediately to spend large sums on the improvement of the service ; and for some years the revenue derived from the working was far less than had been expected.*

Since, however, the working has been in the hands of the Post-office, and one control has been substituted, the service, both as regards the *employés* and the telegraphic apparatus, is far more efficiently performed. Above all, the public now enjoys the benefit of a uniform rate of charge, which will doubtless in time be reduced, as there is no desire on the part of the authorities to continue the present rate any longer than is absolutely necessary in a financial point of view.

* According to official returns recently issued, the receipts of the telegraph service during the year ended March 31, 1880, were £1,469,795, and the working expenses £1,115,765, of which sum £12,100 was a contribution to a depreciation fund to replace submerged cables, leaving a balance of profit of £354,030, equal to 3·36 per cent. on the capital of £10,529,577.

SECTION I.

TELEGRAPH MESSAGE FORMS.

THE first result of the acquisition of the Inland Telegraph system by the Post-office was the establishment of a uniform rate of charge for all inland messages, irrespective of distance. After considerable discussion in Parliament this was fixed at one shilling for every message not exceeding twenty words, exclusive of the addresses of the sender and receiver, which were to be transmitted free. When the message exceeded twenty words the charge was to be increased 3d. for every additional five words, so that for thirty words the charge was 1s. 6d. ; for fifty words, 2s. 6d., and so on.

Prior to the transfer of the system to the Post-office all the principal companies furnished the public gratuitously with blank forms for the reception of the messages, and the charges on the transmission were paid either in cash or by stamps of the forwarding company, where such had been issued by it. The public therefore had become accustomed to the use of these message forms when the Post-office commenced to work the telegraph system which it had acquired, and similar forms drawn up in conformity with the altered circumstances were consequently adopted by it. The forms were printed on a sheet of white wove unwatermarked paper, measuring about $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches, or 28 by 22 centimètres, and the space for the message was ruled with ten horizontal and five vertical lines, so as to admit of a message of fifty words. Above were spaces for the names and addresses of the sender and receiver, the

upper portion of the sheet being occupied by the service indications.

1869-70. On the form known as "Forwarded Inland Form A 1," a space was left blank in the upper right corner where the ordinary dated embossed envelope stamp of one shilling was struck, sufficient space being left below the stamp for affixing adhesive postage stamps representing any extra charges for transmission, portorage, &c. These forms were supplied to the public at the price of the stamp only.

Below the space ruled to receive the message was the direction that "when the message is in excess of fifty words the additional words may be written on ordinary paper, attached to the message form by pin, or wafer, or gum."

At the back was printed a notice to the public, setting out the rates of charges and the regulations as to portorage and delivery. Two blank forms were also subjoined to be filled up by the sender, in case he desired either that the telegram should be delivered by the local post from the terminal office of the Post-office, or should be forwarded by special means, in which case it was necessary to deposit a sum sufficient to defray the extra charge.

A similar form, designated "Forwarded Inland Form A," but without the stamp embossed thereon, was supplied gratis to the public, the charges for transmission of the message being in this case wholly defrayed by affixing on the form the ordinary adhesive postage stamps to the requisite amount. This was the mode usually adopted, as the risk of spoiling a stamped form was thereby avoided. As has been previously noticed (page 132), it was to this cause that the rapid consumption of the adhesive postage stamps of one shilling at that period is to be attributed.

1871. About the month of October, 1871, a slight change was made in the form. The blank forms of request on the back of the "Forwarded Inland Form A 1," just described, were transferred to the front, and introduced in parallel columns below the space for the message, which was reduced in depth and ruled to receive forty words. A slight addition, relative to the

cancellation of the stamps, was made to the notice in the space below the embossed stamp, and the instructions for the filling up of the forms of request at the foot were somewhat modified. The notice to the public at the back was divided into thirteen paragraphs, consecutively numbered, but the form in other respects was essentially the same as that first issued. This form was designated "Forwarded Inland Form A," and was of the same size as that first described.

1873. In May, 1873, another change was made, the principal difference consisting of the suppression of the "notice to the public" at the back, which was left entirely blank. The form, like that last described, was ruled to receive a message of forty words, and three paragraphs of directions were inserted at the foot, superseding the blank forms of request introduced into the preceding form. The size of the sheet remained the same, as also the paper, but the position of the embossed stamp was altered, the instructions being printed above the stamp instead of below, as in the two preceding forms. This form bore the letter "A" on it in the left upper corner without any other designation.

The whole of these three forms were printed and supplied by Messrs. Millington and Hutton, wholesale stationers, London, whose imprint appears at the foot of the second and third varieties to the right of the front lower margin. In the latter it is also found in German text letters in the centre of the lower margin, with the word "manufacturing" added to their description as stationers.

1874. In 1874 a smaller form was adopted, much less cumbersome than the preceding, and measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 22 by $14\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres, being ruled for thirty words only, and designated as A 1. in the left upper corner. The whole of the directions were removed to the back; on the front, the office indications were simplified, and the space at the right upper corner left entirely free for the stamp. The impression was on paper similar to the former issues, and the name of the printers, "Messrs. Millington and Hutton, London," was inserted

in the right lower margin of the front, and the right lower margin of the reverse, in Italics.

The stamping of all these forms with the embossing postage die of one shilling was done at Somerset House by the Inland Revenue Department. The forms were sold to the public either singly at the facial value of the stamp, or made up into books of twenty, and perforated along the left margin to render their severance easy. Interleaved books, furnished with a sheet of carbonic paper for taking off copies of the message, were also supplied at an extra charge of twopence.

As noticed previously under the head of "envelopes," the dies were used without reference to their index numbers, of which these forms afford a remarkable proof. Thus we find Die No. 7 in use in December, 1869; Die No. 5 in 1871; and Die No. 2 in May, 1873.

1876. When the severance of the accounts of the postal and telegraph services was made in 1876, a special embossing stamp of the value of one shilling was prepared by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. for the telegraph message forms.

The design consists of the head of the Queen taken from the die executed by Mr. W. Wyon, on a solid ground, enclosed in a circular border, measuring $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch, or $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter. Round the inner circle is a row of pearls, and on the border an engine-turned pattern, on which is introduced TELEGRAPHS in the upper part and ONE SHILLING below, in sunken block letters. Between each word are small circles in which the date plugs are inserted.



The impression was in green, on forms similar to those last described, and designated officially as A 1, form A being exactly similar, but without the stamp, and supplied to the public free of charge. Form A 1 was to be purchased singly or in books of twenty each, interleaved and furnished with a sheet of carbonic paper, for twopence above the facial value of the stamps.

These forms were furnished by Messrs. Millington and Hutton. At a subsequent period Messrs. James Truscott and Sons, London, became the contractors for the supply, as appears by their name introduced into the left lower margin of the front of the sheet. The size of the form was slightly diminished, measuring about $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, but in other respects it remained the same.

In January, 1881, an alteration was made by the addition at the foot of the front of a "NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM. This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1868, and to the Notice printed on the back hereof." This latter Notice was divided into seven separate paragraphs. The unstamped form is designated A, and the stamped form A 1. This form was of the same size as the preceding, and was printed by Messrs. James Truscott and Sons, whose name appears in the lower margin of the front to the right. The whole of the forms printed by Messrs. Truscott and Sons were on thin white wove unwatermarked paper.

In June, 1881, Messrs. Harrison and Sons became the contractors for the printing. The formula as printed by them is the same as that last described, but the type is larger, and the paper, which is laid, is much whiter and of a superior quality to that previously employed. Stamped forms A 1 on this paper will be issued to the public so soon as the stock of the former printing is exhausted, and we have consequently included them in our synoptical list. This form measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

SYNOPSIS.

1. Forms with embossed postage stamp of one shilling in green, on thin white wove unwatermarked paper.

- (a) December, 1869. Form A1. Size, $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- (b) October, 1871. Form A. Size, $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; with thirteen paragraphs of instructions on the back.
- (c) May, 1873. Form A. Size, $11\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; with instructions on front.
- (d) 1874. Form A1. Size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

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2. Form with embossed telegraph stamp of one shilling in green, on thin white wove unwatermarked paper.

- (a) May, 1876. Form A1. Size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- (b) Form A1. Size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
- (c) January, 1881. Form A1. Size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; with "Notice to sender" on front.

3. Form with embossed telegraph stamp of one shilling in green, on white laid paper.

June, 1881. Form A1. Size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches ; with "Notice to sender," as in the last preceding.

SECTION II.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARDS.

A DESIRE having been manifested for the supply of a telegraph message form which persons could conveniently carry about with them, and in the event of being unable or unwilling to send the message to a telegraph office might deposit it in the nearest letter-box, a card was prepared and issued, early in 1872, on the back of which was printed a notice to the effect, that if the card was deposited in a post-box for the reception of letters, it would be carried at the next clearance to a telegraph office, and the message inscribed on the card would be duly transmitted by telegraph from thence to the address designated.

DESIGN.—In the *left* upper corner was struck the embossed envelope stamp of one shilling in green, and is the only instance of a stamp being officially placed in that position by the British Post-office. On the front of the card, to the right of the stamp, were the words "From" and "To," with spaces and lines for the addresses.

The card was stout white, 60 to the inch, measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{10}$ inches, or 120 by 78 mm., and was ruled for the reception of a message of twenty words, four words in each line; and in a line immediately above the space for the message were the following instructions: "One word only should be written in each space from left to right across the card," while below is a note as to special directions for forwarding the message. On the back of the card was POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARD, in large letters, followed by "For Inland Telegrams only," the first two words being separated from the last two by the Royal Arms with supporters. Below was a notice to the public in four closely-printed paragraphs, and a recommendation to insert the date and hour of posting in blanks left for the purpose.

Two varieties of this card are found, due to different settings up of the type.

(a) In the first, prepared in January, 1872, and issued to the public on 1st April, 1872, the Royal Arms at the back measure 22 mm. along the base, and the place where the stamp is embossed on the front is marked out on the reverse side by two lines at right angles to each other, apparently as an indication where the office stamp should be struck. Copies have been found showing a curious typographical error in the first word of the line of instructions immediately above the space ruled for the message. The "e" in "One" is a defective letter, making the word read as "Ono," an error which was corrected as soon as it was discovered, and as this occurred while the impression was being printed off, specimens with the error are in consequence very rare.

(b) The second impression, though prepared in February, 1872, does not appear to have been issued to the public till August, 1874, and is readily distinguishable from the first impression, as the card is rather thinner and whiter, and measures nearly 2 mm. less in depth. On the reverse side, the Royal Arms measure along the base 25 mm., and the whole of the inscriptions are in larger type, though the composition is the same as in the previous impression. The two lines marking the place of the stamp at the back are wanting.

The demand appears to have been but small, and after the stock manufactured in January and February, 1872, had become exhausted, no more were printed. They were removed from the list of stamps sold at the Post-offices some years since, and have not been procurable at any of the offices for a long time past. Specimens consequently are becoming scarce.

SYNOPSIS.

Telegraph cards with embossed envelope stamp of one shilling in green; on white card.

(a) 1st April, 1872. Arms measuring 22 mm.

VARIETY.

Same, with "One" on face reading "Ono."

(b) August, 1874. Arms measuring 25 mm.

SECTION III.

ADHESIVE TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

In 1875, as has been previously stated, the great desirability of separating the accounts of the telegraph and postal services so as to judge of the receipts derived from each respectively, was so strongly urged on the Government that it was determined to adopt a special set of stamps for the telegraph service, and no longer to admit the payment of the charges on telegraphic messages to be made by the medium of postage stamps.

Instructions were in consequence given to Messrs. De La Rue and Co. to prepare designs of telegraph stamps of the values of one penny, threepence, one shilling, and five shillings, to be executed on the typographic system, similar to that then employed by them for the postage stamps, and to be printed by them on paper supplied by the Inland Revenue Department. The values ordered at the time we refer to were afterwards supplemented by others of the values of fourpence, sixpence, three shillings, ten shillings, one pound, five pounds, and one halfpenny, so that the entire series as in actual use at the present time consists of:

1. THE ONE PENNY . issued 1st February, 1876.
2. THE THREEPENCE . " " "
3. THE ONE SHILLING . " " "
4. THE FIVE SHILLINGS . " " "
5. THE FOURPENCE . " 1st March, 1877.
6. THE SIXPENCE . " " "
7. THE THREE SHILLINGS . " " "
8. THE TEN SHILLINGS . " " "
9. THE ONE POUND . " " "
10. THE FIVE POUNDS . " " "
11. THE ONE HALFPENNY . " 1st April, 1880.

Before proceeding to examine each of these stamps *seriatim*, we shall be enabled to avoid much unnecessary repetition if we commence by noticing some features which are common to the stamps of the two services—the telegraph and the postal—and others which are peculiar to the telegraph stamps among themselves.

DESIGN.—In point of general design they resemble those of the postal service, inasmuch as that they both uniformly bear a diademed portrait in profile of the Queen to the left; but they differ in one unmistakeable particular—that the exterior form of the stamp is that of a transverse rectangular oblong, and not an upright one. In the ornamentation of the framework enclosing the head there is a general identity of style and that peculiar sameness of effect which all the inspirations of Mr. Owen Jones alike display, whether they may have been primary or have been filtered through the medium of the designer of Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s establishment.

PLATE.—The plates are constructed in a similar manner to those for the postage stamps (p. 103), except with some modifications consequent on the difference of the shape of the two series, which will be noticed under each head, and a similar conventional division of the sheets into Post-office sheets is adopted in the case of these stamps.

LETTERING.—Letters throughout all the stamps of the telegraph service are inserted into the lower angles only, the first letter indicating the place of the stamp in the vertical row, and the second its place in the horizontal row.

PLATE NUMBERS.—Prior to the commencement of the present year the actual number of the plate, and also the official number, were introduced into the upper and lower margins of the sheet, the plate number occupying the right, and the official number the left corners of the upper margin, the position of the two being reversed in the lower one. These numbers were inserted in the same manner as in the postage stamps (p. 105).

PAPER.—In all the values, with the exception of the one halfpenny, the one penny, and the one pound, where a corresponding value is found in the postage series, the paper employed

is the same as that on which the postage stamps of corresponding values are printed, the shape of the stamps causing the pane to be sideways as compared with the latter. Thus the threepence, sixpence, and one shilling telegraph stamps were printed on the postage stamp paper, watermarked with the "spray of rose," until the commencement of the present year, when that watermarked with "Crown, 1880," was substituted. The fourpence telegraph stamp is still (June, 1881) printed on the postage stamp paper watermarked with the "large garter," but that watermarked with the "Crown, 1880," will doubtless be substituted as soon as the stock in hand is exhausted. The five shillings and the ten shillings are printed on the postage stamp paper watermarked with the "Maltese cross." The three shillings telegraph stamp, of the same size as the threepence, sixpence, and one shilling, is printed on the postage stamp paper watermarked with the "spray of rose," but when the stock in hand is exhausted will doubtless make its appearance on that watermarked with "Crown, 1880." The one halfpenny, one penny, one pound, and five pounds are all printed on a paper watermarked with "shamrock," specially introduced for the one penny, as will be noticed hereafter.

Where the paper and the impression of the stamps of the two services are common to each other, it may seem to be somewhat anomalous that the changes adopted in the stamps of one service are not carried out immediately in those of the other. But although in fact these changes are ordered to be carried out simultaneously, yet the exact period when they come into operation, so far as the public is concerned, is subordinate to differences in the requirements of the two services. Thus the consumption of the one shilling value for the telegraph service is very large in comparison with the demand for that value for postage purposes; for while Plate No. 13 of the one shilling postage stamp now in use was approved so long ago as May, 1875, no less than eleven plates of similar value have since that date been approved for the telegraph service. On the other hand, the postage stamp of fourpence is extensively

used for the single letter rate to countries in the second class of the Postal Union, while there is but little demand for it for telegraph purposes; and as regards the one penny telegraph stamp, its only use can be as small change to make up a payment, or when a twopenny receipt for a telegram is required. These considerations account also for the fact that, while the one shilling telegraph stamp was issued on "Crown, 1880," in March last, a like issue of the corresponding postage value only took place 15th June, 1881, subsequent to the remarks we made at page 132, which were at that time printed off. Again, the colour of the fourpence postage stamp was changed to mouse-brown on the 1st September, 1880, and the paper to "Crown, 1880," on the 1st January last, yet no corresponding changes have been announced in the fourpence telegraph stamp up to the present time, 30th June, 1881.

CONTROL MARKS.—The paper introduced for the one penny telegraph stamp was watermarked in the upper and lower margins of the sheet with the word "Mark," over which the control mark, similar to that employed for the postage stamps *mutatis mutandis*, was affixed. (p. 107.) This mark was also affixed on the postage stamp paper given out for the other telegraph stamps, until the commencement of the present year, when the system was abandoned.

The observations made previously (p. 108) with regard to the gumming of the type-printed postage stamps equally apply to the telegraph stamps. The perforation is also the same as for the corresponding values of the postage stamps, except so far as relates to the one pound stamp, which is perforated 14.

1. THE ONE PENNY.

Date of issue, 1st February, 1876.

DESIGN.—The design consists of the head of the Queen, of smaller dimensions than in the postage stamp of corresponding value, on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, within a double-lined plain circular band, on which is inscribed, in coloured

block letters, TELEGRAPHS in the upper part, and ONE PENNY below. The spandrels are filled in with ornamentation of a conventional character. White letter blocks are in the lower angles carrying letters in colour, and the number of the plate is inserted in the circular band on each side. The exterior rectangular frame measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm.



PLATE.—The plate is constructed to admit of the printing a sheet of two hundred stamps in two panes of ten rows of ten casts in each row. In the upper margin of the sheet is the legend TELEGRAPHS ONE PENNY, in large block letters.

Plates Nos. 1 and 2 were approved 11th August, 1875; Plates Nos. 3 and 4, on 16th; and Plate No. 5, on the 30th of the same month. No specimens have been found printed from Plate No. 1, and we have in consequence omitted it from the synoptical list. Plate No. 3 is that which is at present in use. Plate No. 5 has been diverted to another object, having been utilized for the halfpenny value.

PAPER.—The paper, as has been previously mentioned, was specially manufactured for this stamp, and is watermarked with a “shamrock,” disposed in two panes of ten rows of ten in each row, corresponding with the arrangement of the plate panes. The sheet measures about 10 by 21 inches.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is red-brown, similar to that employed for the postage stamp (1880) of corresponding value.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “shamrock.” Plates Nos. 2 and 3.
Perf. 14. 1st February, 1876. One penny, red-brown.

2. THE THREEPENCE.

Date of issue, 1st February, 1876.

DESIGN.—The head of the Queen in a circle, with a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, is enclosed in a white transverse-

pointed oval band. In the upper part of the band is TELEGRAPHS, and in the lower THREE PENCE, in coloured block letters. At each angle are plain white blocks, the two upper being filled in with the number of the plate, and the two lower with the ordinary lettering, all in colour. The vacant spaces in the design are filled in with commonplace ornamentation. The rectangular frame measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm.



PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps, divided into twelve smaller sheets of twenty each, as in the case of the postage stamp of like value. The panes were arranged in three rows of four in each row, separated from each other horizontally by a space of about half an inch, and vertically by a space equal to the width of a stamp, each pane consisting of twenty casts, arranged in four rows of five in each row, and measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.* In the vertical margins at each end of the pane was printed the legend, TELEGRAPHS THREE PENCE.

Impressions from Plate No. 1 have not been found by us, and are not among those which are registered at Somerset House; Plate No. 2 was approved 10th October, 1875; Plate No. 3, on 21st March, 1876; Plate No. 4, on 30th July, 1877; and Plate No. 5, on 12th January, 1878; but neither of the two last have at present been brought into use.

Early in the present year (1881) the arrangement of the panes composing the plate underwent a modification, consequent on the abandonment of the paper watermarked with the "spray of rose," and the substitution in its place of the "Crown, 1880," paper. Six panes of 20 casts each were formed into one of 120 in the same manner as in the adhesive postage stamp of similar value (page 140), and ornaments were introduced into the margins

* It must be borne in mind that when the postage stamp paper is used for the telegraph stamps that which is the side of the sheet in the postage stamps becomes the top of the sheet in the telegraph stamps, and the watermarks appear sideways on the stamps.

showing where the pane might be divided into Post-office sheets. At the same time the legends, control marks, and the plate numbers on the margins were suppressed.

These changes were carried out while Plate No. 3 was in use.

PAPER.—The paper up to the commencement of the present year was the same as that introduced in 1867 for such of the postage stamps as were at that period arranged in twelve panes, watermarked with a “spray of rose.” Consequent on this stamp being a transverse oblong instead of an upright one, the watermarks appear lengthwise.

At the beginning of the present year the paper was changed, and that which had been originally introduced in 1880 for the postage stamps of one penny, watermarked “Crown 1880,” was substituted.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is carmine.

SYNOPSIS.

1. Paper watermarked with “spray of rose.” Plates Nos. 2 and to 3; perf. 14.

1st February, 1876. Threepence, carmine.

2. Paper watermarked with “Crown 1880.” Plate No. 3; perf. 14.

1881. Threepence, carmine.

3. THE ONE SHILLING.

Date of Issue, 1st February, 1876.

DESIGN.—The same small head of the Queen, on a ground-work of fine horizontal lines, is placed within a double-lined white upright truncated oval band, inscribed TELEGRAPHS at the top, and ONE SHILLING below, in coloured block letters. In the angles of the rectangular frame inclosing this design are white blocks, the uppermost bearing the number of the plate, and the two lower the letters. The vertical spaces between the upper and lower blocks are filled in with an ornamental framing,



which is continued along the bottom and top except where intercepted by the white border. The stamp measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

PLATE.—The plate was constructed to admit of printing a sheet of 240 stamps arranged in twelve panes, as in the three-pence last described; but at the commencement of the present year a similar alteration was made in their arrangement, the six panes on one side being formed into a single pane of 120 casts, and the six on the other side into a similar single pane.

Plate No. 1 was approved 28th May, 1875, and Plate No. 2 on the 30th of the same month. Plate No. 3 was approved 2nd September, 1875; Plate No. 4 on the 11th September, 1876, and Plates Nos. 5 and 6 in 1877. Of Plate No. 7 no trace has been found, nor have any impressions from it been seen by us. Plates Nos. 8 and 9 were approved in 1878, the one on the 26th September, and the other on the 15th November. Plate No. 10 was approved 19th September, 1879, and Plate No. 11, at present in use, on the 13th May, 1880. The impression from this latter on which the *imprimatur* is endorsed is arranged in twelve panes, on paper watermarked with "spray of rose."

PAPER.—The paper was the postage stamp paper watermarked with the "spray of rose," and so continued until the commencement of the present year, when that watermarked with "Crown 1880" was substituted for it, and the panes of Plate No. 11 were brought together. A device was printed on the margins of each pane to indicate where it could be divided horizontally into three equal portions, and vertically into two, so as to form six Post-office sheets of twenty stamps, each of the facial value of £1.

IMPRESSION.—The impression was in green of a similar tone to that employed for the postage stamps of corresponding value, but in the month of March, 1881, simultaneously with the alteration in the paper and with the issue of impressions from Plate No. 11, the colour was changed to a light brown-red, similar to that on which the postage stamps of one shilling are at present printed.

SYNOPSIS.

1. Paper watermarked with "spray of rose." Plates Nos. 1 to 10 (except Plate 7); perf. 14.

1st February, 1876. One shilling, green, greyish green (shades).

2. Paper watermarked with "Crown 1880." Plate No. 11; perf. 14.

March, 1881. One shilling, light brown-red.

4. THE FIVE SHILLINGS.

Date of issue, 1st February, 1876.

DESIGN.—The design consists of the head of the Queen of a similar size to that in the postage stamp of corresponding value, with a groundwork of fine horizontal lines enclosed in a circle, and within a rectangular transverse oblong frame, measuring 30 by 25 mm. In the angles are solid coloured blocks, in the two upper of which are the plate numbers, and in the two lower the letters in white. In the upper and lower portions of the frame are tablets with the inscriptions TELEGRAPHS FIVE SHILLINGS, in coloured block letters on a white ground, and the two vertical sides of the frame are composed of an ornamental pattern.



PLATE.—The plate, like that of the postage stamp of corresponding value, is constructed to admit of printing a sheet of eighty stamps, divided into four panes, each pane consisting of twenty casts disposed in five rows of four in each row. Above and below each pane is printed in large Roman capitals the legend TELEGRAPHS FIVE SHILLINGS.

Plate No. 1 was approved 5th August, 1875; Plate No. 2 on the 30th of the same month, and Plate No. 3, which is that at present in use, on 14th October, 1878.

PAPER.—The paper is the same as that employed for the

postage stamps of corresponding value, watermarked with the "Maltese cross."

IMPRESSION.—The colour is pink, similar to that of the postage stamps of the same value, and varies considerably in depth of shade.

PERFORATION.—Like the postage stamps of the same value, the perforation is 15. (p. 146.)

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "Maltese cross." Plates Nos. 1, 2, and 3; perf. 15.

1st February, 1876. Five shillings, pink (shades).

5. THE FOURPENCE.

Date of issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—At the two extremities of a solid tablet, on which is the inscription FOUR PENCE, in white block letters, are the letter blocks in white. From these spring an arched solid band, the outermost line of which intercepts the line of the transverse oblong rectangular frame enclosing the whole design. On this band is the inscription TELEGRAPHS, in white block letters, and within the semi-circular space is the head of the Queen in a circle $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter. The upper corners are filled up with an ornamental design, and the plate numbers are inserted on white circular blocks in the spaces between the tablet and the circle enclosing the head. The stamp measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

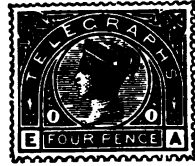


PLATE.—The plate, like that at that period used for printing the postage stamp of corresponding value, is constructed to admit of printing a sheet divided into four panes, each consisting of sixty casts, disposed in six rows of ten in each row. In the margin at the left end of each pane is the legend TELEGRAPHS FOUR PENCE in block letters.

Plate No. 1 was approved on 12th January, 1877, and Plate No. 2 on the 18th June, 1877, but this latter has not yet been brought into use.

PAPER.—This is the same as that formerly employed for the postage stamp of corresponding value, watermarked with “large garter.”

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is light sage-green, as adopted for the postage stamp of corresponding value at the period when this stamp was first issued, the *imprimatur* of Plate No. 1 being in this colour.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “large garter.” Perf. 14.
1st March, 1877. Fourpence, pale sage-green.

6. THE SIXPENCE.

Date of issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—The small head of the Queen, in a circle $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter, is enclosed in a transverse oblong rectangular frame of $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm., the upper angles of which are incurved. The value, SIX PENCE, is inserted on a plain white tablet below, at each extremity of which are the letter blocks; at the top is a similar tablet inscribed TELEGRAPHS; while at the lower corners of this latter are the plate numbers in white circular discs.



PLATE.—The plate like that for the threepence before described was originally composed of twelve panes, but at the commencement of the present year, when Plate No. 2 was brought into use, these were united so as to form two panes of 120 casts each.

Plate No. 1 was approved on the 12th January, 1877, and Plate No. 2 on the 18th June, 1877. This latter is at present in use.

So long as the stamps were arranged in twelve panes the

legend TELEGRAPHS SIX PENCE was introduced in the left margin of each pane, but since the panes have been brought together not only the legend, but the control marks and plate numbers, both ordinary and official, have been suppressed.

PAPER.—The paper, like that on which the threepence was printed, was, up to the commencement of the year, that watermarked with the “spray of rose,” but now “Crown, 1880.”

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is greenish-grey, like that of the postage stamp of corresponding value.

SYNOPSIS.

(1) Paper watermarked with “spray of rose.” Plate No. 1.
Perf. 14.
1st March, 1877. Sixpence, greenish-grey.

(2) Paper watermarked with “Crown 1880.” Plate No. 2.
Perf. 14.
1881. Sixpence, greenish-grey.

7. THE THREE SHILLINGS.

Date of issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—The head of the Queen is on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, in an equilateral octagon of $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter, enclosed in an elongated octagonal solid border, the exterior lines of which intercept the external lines of the rectangular frame, which measures $22\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. On this band is the legend TELEGRAPHS THREE SHILLINGS, in white block letters. In the angles are white blocks, those in the upper ones carrying the plate numbers, and the lower the letters. On each side of these blocks angular portions are removed, so as to form gaps in the exterior line of the rectangular frame.



PLATE.—The plate is constructed to admit of twelve panes of twenty casts in each, in four rows of five in each row, and is arranged as in the other stamps where the plate consists of a like number of panes.

Plate No. 1 was approved 12th January, 1877, and is the only one which has as yet been approved.

PAPER.—The paper is that made for the stamps which are arranged in twelve panes, being the postage stamp paper watermarked with the “spray of rose.” Up to the present time no alteration has been made in the paper, but that watermarked “*Crown, 1880*,” will doubtless be substituted so soon as the stock in hand watermarked with “spray of rose” is exhausted.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is slate-blue.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “spray of rose.” Plate No. 1. Perf. 14.
1st March, 1877. Threepence, slate-blue.

8. THE TEN SHILLINGS.

Date of issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—The head of the Queen is of the same size as that introduced into the five shillings previously described, and is on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, within an equilateral octagon of $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter. The stamp measures 30 by 25 mm. Above the head, a white tablet, in form resembling the half of an elongated hexagon, carries the inscription TELEGRAPHS, and a similar one below the inscription TEN SHILLINGS, all in coloured block letters. In the angles are coloured blocks, the upper ones being furnished with the plate numbers, and the lower with the letters. The remainder of the design consists of ornamental arabesque work.



PLATE.—The plate is constructed in four panes, exactly similar to the five shillings previously described, and in the margin at the bottom of each pane is the legend TELEGRAPHS TEN SHILLINGS, in Roman capitals.

Plate No. 1, the only one constructed, was approved 17th January, 1877.

PAPER.—The paper is that employed for the postage stamp of corresponding value, watermarked with the “Maltese cross.” (p. 146.)

IMPRESSION.—The impression is in green-grey, similar to that of the postage stamp of the corresponding value, and the perforation is also 15.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “Maltese cross.” Plate No. 1. Perf. 15.

1st March, 1877. Ten shillings, green-grey.

9. THE ONE POUND.

Date of Issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—The head of the Queen, on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, in a circle of $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. diameter, is surrounded by a white transverse pointed oval border, on which is inscribed TELEGRAPHS above and ONE POUND below, in graduated block coloured letters. This is enclosed in a rectangular transverse



oblong frame, measuring 58 by 22 mm., within which there is an ornamental frame extending all round, except where intercepted

top and bottom by the exterior lines of the oval band, and by solid blocks at the angles. In the two upper of these latter the plate number is inserted, and in the two lower the letters. Within, on each side of the points of the oval band, is “£1” in white, on a diapered ground.

PLATE.—The plate is constructed to admit of the printing of a sheet composed of sixty stamps, in two panes of ten rows of three casts in a row. In the margins at the top and the bottom is the legend, TELEGRAPHS ONE POUND.

Plate No. 1, the only one constructed, was approved 12th January, 1877.

PAPER.—The paper employed is that manufactured for the one penny telegraph stamp, watermarked with a “shamrock,” but as the stamps are disposed sideways on the sheet as compared with those of the one penny, the watermarks also appear sideways on the stamp. Further, as the paper for the one penny was prepared to receive two panes of ten rows of ten in each row, and three rows of the stamp of £1 are only equivalent to nine rows of the one penny, one row of the watermarks is left clear of the impression, while three appear sideways on each stamp.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is brown-violet, similar to that of the postage stamp of corresponding value.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “shamrock” repeated three times sideways. Plate No. 1. Perf. 14.

1st March, 1877. One pound, brown-violet.

10. THE FIVE POUNDS.

Date of issue, 1st March, 1877.

DESIGN.—The head of the Queen, on a groundwork of fine horizontal lines, is enclosed in a circle of similar dimensions to that of the five shillings. The circle is set in a transverse oblong rectangular frame, the exterior measurement of which is 54 by 31 mm. An ornamental frame entirely surrounds the stamp, and is made wider at



the top and bottom to receive two plain white tablets 42 mm. long, the upper one inscribed TELEGRAPHS, and the lower FIVE

POUNDS, in coloured block letters, while at the ends of the upper are solid coloured blocks for the plate numbers, and at the ends of the lower similar blocks for the letters. On each side of the circle is "£5" in white, on a diapered ground.

PLATE.—The plate is constructed to admit of the printing a sheet composed of forty-two stamps, divided into two panes of seven vertical rows of three casts in each row. The legend TELEGRAPHS FIVE POUNDS is introduced in the margin at the top and bottom of the sheet as in the one pound.

Plate No. 1 is the only one which has been constructed, and was approved 17th January, 1877.

PAPER.—The paper employed is that watermarked with the "shamrock," manufactured for the one penny telegraph stamp. The construction of the plate being similar to that of the one pound, the impression is in consequence made in the same manner, and the watermarks appear sideways on the stamps; but as the depth of this stamp does not correspond with the width of the one penny, the watermarks are somewhat irregularly disposed on it.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is orange-vermilion, the *minium* of foreign catalogues.

PERFORATION.—The stamp being exactly double the size of the five shillings, is perforated by the same machines, and gauges 15 to the two centimètres.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with "shamrock." Plate No. 1; perf. 15.

1st March, 1877. Five pounds, orange-vermilion.

11. THE ONE HALFPENNY.

Date of issue, 1st April, 1880.

PLATE.—Consequent on the alteration in the telegraph rates for messages to several of the countries within the Postal Union, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1880, it was

necessary to provide immediately an additional value of one halfpenny. To effect this a plate of the one penny, No. 5—impressions from which had been already approved, though the plate itself had not been brought into service—was taken, and the value removed from the casts composing it. In place of the value so removed block letters in type were introduced, and the first issue of the halfpenny appeared on a plate numbered 5.



Impressions from the plate as so altered were approved 13th March, 1880, and no other plate has as yet been constructed.

PAPER.—The paper employed is that manufactured for the one penny, watermarked with “shamrock.”

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is orange-vermilion, similar to that of the five pounds.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “shamrock.” Plate No. 5; perf. 14.

1st April, 1880. One halfpenny, orange-vermilion.

SECTION IV.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS OF TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

1868-9. Shortly after the passing of the "Telegraph Act, 1868," two designs appear to have been submitted for stamps to be used in the service. These designs have not been seen by us, but the following is the description of them, taken from the *Philatelist*, vol. vi. p. 56. 1872:

I. Square. Head of Queen to right, in circle; value in words right and left; roses in upper, shamrock and thistle in lower angles; TELEGRAM beneath in graduated capitals. Head engraved in cameo, so as to give the appearance of relief. Printed on white card. One shilling, black.

” green.

II. Square. Wreath of oak and laurel leaves, with imperial Crown, forming a circle, within a double-lined frame; value in words in centre; TELEGRAM in graduated letters below. Printed in colour on white card.

One shilling, black.

” green.

PROOFS FROM THE OFFICIAL DIES.

Messrs. De La Rue and Co. have in their pattern books a specimen copy of every die engraved by them for this branch of the service, printed in black on white enamelled card. To enumerate these would be a needless repetition.

Besides these there is a specimen of the five pound value printed from the die as completed, but in gold, as a trial, on the paper of the issue, watermarked with "shamrock." The specimen is not however perforated.

The gold used was pure, and the effect very chaste; but the authorities decided against its adoption on account of the expense, which was said to amount to about sixpence each! Orange-red was therefore substituted. This trial was printed early in 1877.

No other proofs from the official dies are known.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 60, last line but one, for "imform" read "inform."

Page 67, top ; and page 69, foot. With reference to the oval shape of the perforations produced in some of the stamps by Archer's machine, we have had the opportunity, since the above pages were printed off, of examining several specimens, and are convinced that the irregular shape of the holes is caused by a second descent of the round perforating needles, *nearly* coincident with the first. When a second descent takes place at a *small interval* from the first, the perforation assumes a form somewhat resembling the figure 8, the cusps made by the intersecting circles being clearly visible. It is only when a second descent of the needles cuts away the paper left between the holes that the saw-like or jagged edges referred to on page 69 are produced. Wherever, therefore, the shape of the holes is found other than circular, the circumstance is entirely due to irregularities in the process of perforation, and not to the needles, which have uniformly been round.

Page 83 n. A further search in the records at Somerset House shows that Plate No. 1 of the twopence was completed 2nd May, 1840 ; but there is no trace that it ever was hardened. Plate No. 2 was completed and hardened 31st July, 1840 ; and both plates were defaced 27th January, 1842. As it is clear from the records of the Post-office that twopenny stamps were issued in May and June, 1840, these must have been printed from Plate No. 1, notwithstanding it had not been hardened ; and after making a close examination of the earliest specimens, we find the most remarkable confirmation of the fact. These

specimens present a soft appearance, the impression showing signs as if the plate had been "taken down" overmuch; while as the usage of the plate proceeded signs of wear become very apparent.

Page 104, line 20 from the top, and page 132 n.† Since these pages were printed off the paper watermarked "Crown 1880" has, as we surmised, been substituted for that watermarked with "spray of rose" in the one shilling, so that the whole of the ordinary-sized stamps are now printed on the "Crown 1880" paper. Marks are introduced into the exterior margins of each pane of one hundred and twenty stamps, denoting where it may be divided horizontally into two equal portions, and each of these vertically into three; the entire pane being thus separated into six equal parts, each constituting a "Post-office sheet" of the value of £1.

This issue to the public took place on 15th June, 1881, Plate No. 13 being still in use. The colour of the impression, pale brown-vermilion, has not been altered.

Page 113. The engraving of Die II. of the fourpence is inaccurate, insomuch as it shows a linear ground on the lower portion of the frame. The ground really is solid, as stated in the text.

Page 133. Add to synopsis of "one shilling" **FOURTH ISSUE:**
(2) Paper watermarked with "Crown 1880." Plate No. 13.
Perf. 14.

One shilling, pale brown-vermilion.

Page 141. In the synoptical list of the issues of the three-pence, "Second Issue" has been accidentally omitted above Die II., and "Third Issue" above Die III.

Page 149, last line in page. Plate No. 22 is at present in use. Impressions from this plate were first issued to the public at the end of June, 1881.

Page 160, insert :

18. THE ONE PENNY (1881).

Postage and Inland Revenue Stamp.

Date of Issue, 28th June, 1881.

Early in the month of June, 1881, the following NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC was issued from the Post-office :

“Use of 1d. Adhesive Postage Stamps and 1d. Adhesive Receipt Stamps for either receipt or postage purposes.

“In future the Ordinary Adhesive Penny Receipt Stamp may be used as a Penny Postage Stamp, and the Adhesive Penny Postage Stamp as an Ordinary Receipt Stamp.

“It is understood that for the purpose of postage the Receipt Stamps, in common with Postage Stamps, must have no printing or writing placed on their face by the public.

“By command of the Postmaster-General.”

The above Notice was grounded on the provisions of the 47th Section of “The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1881,” by which it was enacted, “That on and after the first day of June, 1881, any stamp duties of one penny, which may legally be denoted by adhesive stamps not appropriated by any word or words on the face of them to any particular description of instrument, may be denoted by adhesive penny postage stamps ; and on and after that day postage duties may be paid by the use of penny adhesive stamps not appropriated by any word or words on the face of them to postage duty or to any particular description of instrument.”

It is clear that the Act of Parliament contemplated only the admission to the payment of postage duties of the adhesive “INLAND REVENUE” stamps, of which there are several varieties ; but under the terms of the notice issued by the Postmaster-General not only all these, but the one penny “RECEIPT” and “DRAFT” stamps (1853 and 1854), printed in blue and brown, and the “DRAFT PAYABLE ON DEMAND OR RECEIPT” stamp of 1856, have been admitted to prepay the postage on letters. We give, for reference sake, a list of those known to us.

380 POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

List of stamps of the facial value of one penny, which, under the provisions of the Act above referred to, and the notice issued by the Postmaster-General, have, since the 1st June, 1881, been admitted to defray a postage rate of like amount.

| Date of Issue. | Colour. | Paper. | Watermark. | Legend. |
|----------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. 1853. | Blue | Bluish (safety) | Anchor with cable | Receipt, 1st Type. |
| 2. 1854. | " | " | " | " 2nd Type. |
| 3. " | " | White | " | " " |
| 4. " | Brown | White | " | Draft. |
| 5. 1856. | Mauve | Bluish | " | Draft payable on demand or receipt. |
| 6. " | Lilac | White | " | " " |
| 7. 1857. | Mauve | Bluish | " | Inland Revenue. |
| 8. " | " | White | " | " |
| 9. " | " | Bluish | Anchor | " |
| 10. " | " | White | " | " |
| 11. 1871. | " | " | " | " 1st Type. |
| 12. " | " | " | " | " 2nd Type. |
| 13. 1879. | " | " | " | " 3rd Type. |
| 14. 1881. | " | " | Orb* | " " |

The first ten of these (Nos. 1 to 10) are of large dimensions, measuring 25 by 30 mm., and are all perforated 15. In Nos. 1 to 6 the Queen's head to the left is enclosed in an oval band, carrying the legend; but in Nos. 7 to 10 the head is enclosed in a circular band. Nos. 11 to 14 are of smaller dimensions, measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and perforated 14; and the head of the Queen in these latter is enclosed in an oval band, carrying the inscription. Of these latter, in No. 11 the spandrels are filled in with a reticulated pattern; in No. 12 the spandrels are plain, but the ornament at the corners of the inside line of the

* So long as these stamps were printed on paper watermarked with "Anchor," the plate was composed of a single pane of 240 stamps (*sup.* p. 148); but when the paper watermarked with "Orb" was substituted, the plate was composed of two panes of 120 casts each. On the three exterior margins of each pane of the printed impressions was a *fac-simile* signature of Sir J. C. Herries, the Chairman of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The fact is mentioned to prevent its being supposed that this paper was the same as that employed up to 1881 for the twopence halfpenny postage stamp.

frame does not extend into the angles, and the oval band and inscription are heavy; in No. 13 the corner ornament extends into the angles, and the oval band and inscription are lighter; No. 14 only differs from No. 13 in the watermark of the paper.

The provisions of the Act of Parliament before referred to, though of a permanent nature, were only designed to effect a transitory purpose, as the further manufacture of the one penny postage stamp (1880) and of the Inland Revenue stamps of one penny was ordered to be stopped, and a new stamp prepared, combining the two. Messrs. De La Rue and Co. were charged with the design and preparation of this stamp, which was issued to the public on the 28th June, 1881, as appears by a notice to that effect emanating from the Post-office.

DESIGN.—The design consists of the head of Her Majesty, similar in all respects to that of the "One Penny, 1880," on a groundwork of coarse lines, enclosed in an upright oval, round which is a solid coloured band, with the inscription POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE at the top, and ONE PENNY below, all in small white block letters. This is superposed on an upright rectangular frame measuring $18\frac{1}{2}$ by $22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., composed of two lines, with a pearled linear ornament introduced between them, the frame extending entirely round the stamp, except where it is intercepted on the sides, top and bottom, by the oval band. The spandrels are left plain, nor are there any letter blocks or plate numbers on the stamps.*



* Though the lines of this stamp are coarsely engraved, yet in general appearance it is satisfactory, and the tone of colour pleasing. Messrs. De La Rue and Co., while not deviating from their regular standard, have wisely abandoned the meretricious style of ornamentation, which so much disfigures the one halfpenny and three halfpenny stamps, and have succeeded in producing a stamp superior in design to any that has appeared since the current twopence-halfpenny. Still the principal object of a portrait on a stamp has been lost sight of. The head on all the postage stamps ought to be *identical*, and that this is not the case, any one will perceive on comparing this stamp with those of 1880.

PLATE.—The plate is constructed similarly to that of the “One Penny, 1880,” consisting of two panes of 120 casts in each pane.

PAPER.—The paper is the same as that introduced for the “One Penny, 1880,” described *supra*, p. 156.

IMPRESSION.—The colour of the impression is lilac, and essentially fugitive.

The GUM and PERFORATION are identically the same as in the other stamps in Section III. of similar size.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked with “Crown, 1880.” Perf. 14.

28th June, 1881. One penny, lilac.

Page 174, line 16 from top. In the latest printed envelopes which we have seen of size C ($5\frac{1}{4}$ by 3 inches), struck from dated dies (30. 4. 81), the number of the working die is omitted. The same probably occurs in the other sizes.

Page 176 n. The authorities seem to have at length discovered for themselves the truth of our observation in the note to this page. New working dies have been constructed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., in which the date plugs are no longer inserted, and a fresh numbering of them has commenced, 1, 2, 3, &c. This alteration, restoring the stamp to what it originally was, save in the quality of the engraving of the border, may be safely said to be a great improvement so far as its appearance is concerned. Working dies with the dates inserted were last used on 13th May, 1881, on the envelopes stamped by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the use of the Post-office. The dated dies are, however, still employed for stamping envelopes and paper brought in by the public.

Envelopes without dated dies were issued to the public on 1st July, 1881.

Page 184. Add to "SYNOPSIS"—

(d) Of white laid paper. Die not numbered.

June, 1881. $5\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 inches.

Die II.—Envelopes of plain paper; straight-cut upper flaps, gummed, and without seal device on flap. Die not dated. One penny, pink.

(a) Of white laid paper.

1st July, 1881. Two sizes :

1. $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

2. $5\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 "

(b) Of thick white laid paper.*

3. $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

(c) Of azure wove paper; upper flap rounded.†

4. $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Page 206, bottom line of text but two, add to list :

"Stamp frame measuring $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. by 26 mm., size F."

Page 207. For some months past the size F of the REGISTRATION ENVELOPES described in III. has been out of stock at the Post-office, but since the above pages were printed off has reappeared with certain modifications in its construction and the legend, which will probably, so far as the mode of construction is concerned, be extended to such of the other sizes as have hitherto been made up in a similar manner; and the legend will doubtless be changed throughout the whole of the five sizes issued by the Post-office. As the envelope was constructed, a serrated seam ran horizontally along the reverse side, the side flaps being folded down upon the long flap of the end opposite to that on which the stamp was impressed. As now constructed, the serrated edges are done away with, and the long flap is brought

* The paper of which this envelope is made is of very superior quality, and the "ivory finish" of the outer side shows the embossed head to great advantage.

† We have not yet seen this envelope, but have no doubt of its existence.

over the seam, which is secured by it as it extends to the two external edges. The printing of the legend on the front and the crossed lines is done previously to the flaps being closed down.

The inscription on the face is altered. The use of "Registered" in a single-lined frame is discontinued, and the envelope is headed "REGISTERED LETTER" in large block lettering, followed by the legend in three lines, "This Letter must be handed to an Officer of the Post Office and a Receipt obtained. If otherwise Posted there will be an Extra Charge on Delivery," all in thick block letters. The frame enclosing the inscription, "The Stamp to pay the Postage must be placed here," measuring $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 24 mm., occupies the right upper corner of the front. The addition of a penalty clause to the inscription, it will be seen, is the most striking feature of the new issue, which will no doubt be applied to all the other sizes as fresh printings take place.

The following addition must therefore be made at p. 207 :

IV. Inscription in three lines. Plain flap. Plain seams.

July. 1881. Size F. Stamp frame measuring $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 24 mm. *

Page 237. In "Fifth Issue" after (3) insert—

3 (a) Paper, &c., as in (2) ; top corners only tapered.

One size. 12 by 5 inches, red-brown.

Page 330, line 8 from bottom. Omit "and the number of words for which the stamp is applicable."

The design of the exterior rectangular frame is identical in all the values with the exception of the tablet inscribed with the value, but the pattern of the ornamentation and back-ground of the interior is varied in each.

CONCLUDING NOTICE.

OUR thanks are due to M. Moens for the loan of nearly the whole of the blocks which, by *special permission* of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, have been used for illustrating this work. Others have been lent to us by Messrs. A. Smith & Co. ; while Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, & Co. have contributed the plate of watermarks.

21st July, 1881.



