

Philatelists who might think it worth noting, but, as mentioned, illness prevented me. If the enclosed positives and negatives are of any use to you for your magazine, I shall be very pleased that you should use them."

Our correspondent kindly sent specimens of all the stamps mentioned, photographs both from the face and the reverse, so as to show the watermark.

THE EARL OF CRAWFORD.

THE Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society has been cruising on his yacht in various parts since November last, and it is to be hoped that as he has returned, we shall find him in the best health after so long and delightful a voyage. It seems, however, that his lordship has not been immune from those little mishaps that arrive to most travellers, as we read in the *Melbourne Argus*, under the somewhat sensational heading of "British Yacht's Adventure," the following paragraph:—

"Another extraordinary instance of Customs administration in Australia is afforded by an incident which recently occurred at Thursday Island. The visiting yachtsman who was concerned is the Earl of Crawford, the father of Captain the Hon. R. H. Lindsay, whose marriage with Miss Mary Clarke took place in Melbourne a few weeks ago. The Earl of Crawford's steam yacht *Valhalla* put into that port, with its owner aboard, and remained there two or three days. It was not plying for public patronage or competing in any way with coastal shipping, but the Customs officials nevertheless demanded that Lord Crawford should pay £2 10s. to the department as representing duty on the stores consumed on the yacht whilst she was in Commonwealth waters. That gentleman demurred, and telegraphed to the Minister of Customs on the subject. As Mr. Kingston did not favour him with a reply, he wired again and again, but without eliciting any rejoinder. The local Customs officers became insistent, and threatened to seize the vessel under the Customs Act. Lord Crawford offered to deposit the duty demanded with an agent in the town, pending the settlement of his dispute with the department, but the officials would not adopt this suggestion, so the captain of the yacht hauled up his anchor, and at daybreak of the next morning quietly slipped out to sea, and left the Customs Department's absurd claim unsatisfied."

The action of the Australian Customs administration seems preposterous and represents protection in its most hide-bound form. The Earl of Crawford, however, distinctly has the advantage of the story—"he laughs and he rides away!"

OVER-CATALOGUING.

THE question of what shall or shall not be excluded from catalogues has frequently formed the subject of comment in our columns, nor have we refrained from pointing out that the modern catalogue is far too elaborate for the general collector. The inclusion of multifarious new issues gives the general collector full scope for his energies without the multiplication of