

## THE EARL OF CRAWFORD.

IT will be seen, from an interesting letter in our correspondence column, in which an answer is given to an inquiry as to an official South Australian surcharge, that the Earl of Crawford has returned from his winter cruise. We are very glad to learn that the Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society has benefited in every way by his sojourn in warmer climates, and are confident that his presence again at the meetings of the Society will afford much gratification to his fellow-members.

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 Review.
 

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## THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.\*



AMONG the more interesting European countries will be found the stamps of Portugal, a fact well evidenced by the amount of attention they have received by Philatelists. In this Journal during the past years will be found a long series of articles hereon by Messrs. J. N. Marsden, the late Robert Ehrenbach, and M. P. Castle, and we are glad to be able to announce that Mr. Marsden has promised to write a continuation of his able and interesting articles on the Portuguese stamps. The forenamed writers have, however, now another competitor in the field, Mr. R. B. Yardley having written a series of articles in the *Philatelic Record* which have been republished in book form, a copy of which has been kindly forwarded to us by the author. Mr. R. B. Yardley's reputation as a Philatelist and as a prominent member of the Royal Society needs no vindication at our hands; suffice it to say that the Handbook in question bears throughout the evidence of Mr. Yardley's intimate knowledge of these stamps, his thorough acquaintance with all that has been written thereon, and his keen faculty of analysis and deduction. Mr. Yardley is, in truth, one of that class of philatelists—the best—who collect nothing that they do not study!

A very important and valuable feature of this Handbook is that of its illustrations, consisting of thirty greatly enlarged photographic reproductions of the varying dies of the two first issues. These are admirably rendered, and indicate clearly to any one the salient differences of type. These photographs were produced entirely by Mr. Yardley himself, and he is to be highly congratulated upon the result, which, in our opinion, has not been surpassed in excellence by any existing philatelic photographic reproductions.

The author gives a careful résumé of all the important articles that have hitherto appeared on the two issues in question (a large proportion of which appeared in the *London Philatelist*), and beyond this, although he modestly disclaims any important additions to existing knowledge hereon, it will be seen that on several important points the information materially advances the history of these interesting issues.

\* *The Postage Stamps of Portugal (Reigns of Dona Maria II and Dom Pedro V)*, by R. B. Yardley. *Philatelic Record* Handbooks.