Supposed Biblical Treasure Unearthed in the Ancient City of Lechisch.

firmed by a German Explorer-May Explain the Origin of the Alphabet.

BERLIN, Aug. 4.-For several years a German preacher from the town of Walbroel has been at work, personally and through native agents, in collecting ancient manuscripts and coins from the excavations in Palestine. The preacher's name is Bruesselbach and he has just published a little monograph giving the result of his labors. The publication has attracted wide attention among archaeologists and scientific for the reason that the discoveries which Bruesselbach claims to have made, and which seem to be authenticated by the facts, are the most important made in many to bible history.

The most important of the discoveries related by Bruesselbach is that of a manuscript supposedly written by Moses himself. The margin bears the name of Moses and parts of it at least." the wilting relates to the subjects treated in the early books of the bible which have script which he has unearthed it will be this time bore date of 143 B. C., and

A MANUSCRIPT BY MOSES? | being built upon the ruins of its predecessor. | following the close of the biblical period, It was in a portion of the mound untouched | the accounts of which are very scanty. A workers made their discoveries.

In his explanation of the Mosaic manu-

to the forms of the letters used in the inscription upon the papyrus. The first letter, than the others. The letters are arranged MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN YEARS the horns of that animal. The second letter, "Simeon, the High Priest." Beth, means a house. The third, Gimel, stands for camel, and so on, throughout the Authenticity of the Document Af- alphabet, there is a remarkable correspondence between the names and the objects. origin of the alphabet has been ascribed to the Phoenicians. Many modern scholars have been inclined to doubt this theory, for up, before competent scholars to settle, if the reason that the letters were not sufficiently primitive. The inscription just their accuracy. discovered, which is presumably the first specimen extant of early Hebrew writing, seems to bridge the chasm hitherto existing between the hieroglyphics and conventional letters of later times.

Dr. Bruesselbach says: "The result of our ing from all external and internal evidence, some portion of the bible in this ancient

Coins of Grent Antiquity. The Palestine Fund reports other interestcome down to us as the books of Moses. If ing discoveries, among them a coin of ing written any part of the bible, the natural the explorer can prove the accuracy of his earlier date than any heretofore known. doubt as to the use of writing at that early belief in the august authorship of the manu- The oldest Hebrew coin discovered before

very primitive characters on the most primlitive material ever found, would seem to investigation is that the manuscript, judg- be important in itself. But there have been that these stamps will draw increased atskillful forgeries of such documents before tention to it, particularly as the stamps is genuinely Mosaic. If this be so, the now, and, until a number of experts have themselves, besides being mementos of the religious world is on the point of some passed upon the matter, judgment may have present war, are beautiful in design and years. The finds possess other than startling discoveries, for where one manu- to be suspended. This discovery is, howscholarly interest, as they nearly all relate script has been found there may be others ever, in line with other startling finds of they depict. The stamp collector, be it said, and the next one unearthed may contain the last few years. The unearthing at Nip- is no rare personage. He is found in very pur of inscriptions which carry civilization considerable numbers in every community. script, thus supporting the tradition of the back to 5,000 or 6,000 years before Christ, Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, or showing that the art of printing was known and practiced at that early day, settles one of the objections which has frequently been

> certainly arouse widespread interest and awaken renewed enthusiasm for the work of object of the collectors' pursuits. Foreign exploration in the holy land.

date.

DURANTS IN COURT.

York court last week. She was also ac- since the civil war been subject to internal corded the custody of her three children, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, for whisky,

millionaire. He is the only son of Thomas revenue. These stamps are of many kinds C. Durant, who died on October 5, 1895, and denominations. Special emissions are leaving a fortune estimated to be worth prepared for plug tobacco, snuff, smoking almost \$2,000,000. He had been president of up into high values. As is well known, it the Credit Mobilier of America, of the Ad- is an offense against the revenue laws to irondack company and the Adirondack Rail-way company and vice president of the packages where found. The possession of a Union Pacific railroad. He owned large tracts of valuable Adirondack lands. He left garded as prima facie evidence of fraud, and widow, son and daughter, who is now Mrs. Heloise Frethy Rose.

William West Durant prior to his marriage was well known in New York and Saratoga society circles, relates the New York Herald. He was married to Janet L. Stott, a daughter of Commodore Stott of Stottsville on the Hudson, in the spring of 1884. She was a handsome girl, only nineteen years old at the time, while he was thirty-four. They lived a life of luxury and he spent his income with a liberal hand. They had just completed a trip around the world in Mr. Durant's yacht Utowana, in 1894, when it was rumored there were doquently took a trip to southern California. home of her father.

It was shortly after this that Mr. Durant charging his wife with intimacy with Dr. Frank Richmond Pratt, who had been her cruelty.

in that case and he reported to the court Mr. Durant's accusations had not been substantiated and that those of Mrs. Durant were not of a sufficient character to entitle her to probably be large. any relief. The costs of that suit amounted to \$5,950, which Mr. Durant was obliged to pay. The finding of the referee was sus- late war had been in progress for some time.

The next step taken was by Mrs. Durant, who a short time ago brought this action against her husband for an absolute divorce through her counsel, Robert W. De Forest, Mr. Durant interposed an answer, making a denial of the charges and upon of the parties Judge Daly apcointed Mr. Norton the referee.

Mr. Durant has been involved in litiga-Rose, for several years over the estate of was about to leave the country without rendering to her an accounting of her share f their father's fortune. She had sued him or an accounting in 1896 and the action of the lower court was reversed. She is still prosecuting her claims against him. He ecently had the order for his arrest va-

Mrs. Rose says she gave her brother a power of attorney after their father's death concerning her share of the estate and he oon after went to England in his yacht, where he entertained the nobility most lavshly. He made her an allowance out of her portion of their father's property.

posed of about \$1,000,000 in securities and upon his return to this country she declares when she demanded her share of the estate he became enraged and put her off from time to time until she was compelled to take legal redress. Mr. Durant alleges he has accounted for

his father's property in Warren county and been discharged by the Surrogate from his

GEOGRAPHERS AND THE WAR. Changes in the World's Territory Makes Mapmakers Busy.

In these days, when the war is makin mportant changes in the map of the world, says the New York Tribune, the publishers or school geographies are in a state of suspense and uncertainty. It is their wish to have the maps they issue strictly up to date, but the rapidity with which recent events are altering the national ownership of territories seems to indicate that the task of altering the geography plates will not be finished for some time to come. As soon as a change is finally and permanently effected the map-makers incorporate it into their books. Thus they have been busy of late in redrawing the newly explored Alaskan regions, so that the new plates give correct representations of the now famous Yukon river country. Still more recentlywithin the last few weeks-the geographers have been engaged in giving the United States credit for the ownership of the Hawaiian Islands. Books including this lat-

ter change have not yet appeared in the stores, but they are in preparation. Before recording any of the alterations which the present war is bringing about the mapmakers say they are waiting for the treaty of peace. Although the results in the West Indies could probably be foremade for the books to be printed and is-

Various Kinds of Stickers Issued by the Government at Different Times.

THOSE OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

Similarity of the New and the Old in Color and Design-Most Valuable Stamp Ever Made-Prices Paid by Collectors.

Much commotion as the revenue stamps which came into use the first of July have had a central medallion of George Washingcaused in the business world, not even the banker, the druggist nor the expressman has been as much interested in them as purporting to come from the hands of another individual-the stamp collector, or Moses, bearing his name and that of Joshua philatelist. This personage sees in them (his successor) on the margin, written in says the Globe-Democrat, a notable addition to the objects with which his favorite hobby is concerned, and confidently expects of considerable intrinsic interest for what Most schoolboys have at some time or other collected these labels, and not a few continue the pursuit all their lives. Prices running up into the hundreds, and even thousands, of dollars have been given for single rare specimens in recent times, and the number of active stamp collectors in the United States has recently been estimated at more than 500,000. Postage stamps are generally the main

revenue stamps are rarely gathered by American collectors, but most of them gather the stamps of this character that Uncle Sam has so far emitted-at least the ones whose A Name Familiar in the West Figures collection is not forbidden under heavy in Divorce Proceedings. penalties. These latter are very numerous and embrace all the tax stamps on tobacco of Thomas C. Durant of Union Pacific fame, and liquor; in other words, they are the was granted an absolute divorce by a New stamps on these articles which have always beer and wines. Many of the issues are Durant is a Waldorf-Astoria boarder and quite handsome, and the denominations run collection of them would, therefore, be rewould be treated as a serious offense. Notwithstanding this, however, there are not a few who collect these labels.

The War Issue.

With the stamps that came into use the first of this month, however, the case is far different. Their collection is not forbidden by any law, and since nearly every stamp collector has in his possession some hundreds of varieties of similar stamps that were issued by the government during and after the civil war, he hastens to add these present reminders of our latest war to his collection. They are so far not nearly so mestic troubles in the family. They subse- numerous or perplexing as those that were furnished during the late war. Indeed, the but when they returned east Mrs. Durant different stamps that were then issued are left her husband and went to reside at the | 50 many in number that a complete collection of them is almost an impossibility and would run well up into the thousands. brought an action for an absolute divorce. The bulk of the thousands would, however, consist of the private match, medicine and playing card stamps which were then isphysician. Mrs. Durant absolutely denied sued by authority of the government. Such these accusations and in return asked for stamps are authorized by the present law, a separation on account of her husband's but none have as yet been issued. Only time will tell how many private firms will Lewis Cass Ledyard was appointed referee avail themselves of the government's permission to provide themselves with stamps of special design to pay the tax required by their business. The number will, however,

The government did not issue its first set of internal revenue stamps until the or until 1862. The set then emitted was the most elaborate and extensive issue of stamps ever prepared by any government for any purpose. They were of thirty-one denominations and of 102 varieties, ranging from 1 cent to \$200 in face value and specifying on the different labels many different purposes for which they might be used. Thus there were in the set no less than eleven different kinds of \$1 stamps. ion with his sister, Mrs. Heloise Frethy All were precisely alike in design and color, save that each of the eleven varieties their father and she had him arrested more had a line of description specifying the purthan a month ago upon a charge that he pose for which it might be used that is to pay the tax on a conveyance, entry of goods foreign exchange, inland exchange, lease life insurance, manifest, mortgage, passage ticket, power of attorney or probate of will. The same was true of the other denomina tions making up the 102 varieties. It was the intention of the government at first to enforce strictly the use of a stamp with proper inscription for each purpose. Thus to pay the tax on a mortgage, neither one that had the inscription probate of will or conveyance would do any more than a postage stamp; it had to be a mortgage stamp and nothing else. This proved extremely vexatious, so much so that the governmen was soon compelled to drop this requirement of a special kind of stamp for each kind of document or article. Under it a lawyer's office would in the course of business likely require off and on at least a half of the stamps embraced in the set of 102 varieties, which was entirely too much to ask. The annoyances that have been experienced since the present stamp law came into effect were nothing to those that must have been felt in 1862 before the government receded from its position that each article must have its separate kind of stamp.

Valuable Sets. But to the stamp collector this old set

has always been a thing of beauty and a

joy forever. The vignette of George Washington formed the central design of each of the varieties, but for each denomination the surrounding design differed, as well as the color, and as the face value increased the stamps were made larger in size. The 1 cent values were about as large as our present postage stamps, and so by degrees the size was increased for the values, until the \$200 stamp, the climax of the set and a most beautiful piece of work, printed in two colors, was a dozen times as large Many of these old stamps are still hidden away on documents. One result of the abrogation of the rule requiring a special kind of stamp on each kind of article or document was practically to retire use all but from monest species of these stamps for each denomination. Some of the others thus be came rare. These stamps in general are still common and can be bought from stamp dealers, the most of them for a few cents each, but others bring dollars each as objects of collecting. Thus the 6-cent proprietary stamp of this set is held at about \$25, the \$20 probate of will at \$18, and the \$200 value at \$15; a large number of these stamps are priced at from \$1 to \$2 casted pretty accurately, the fate of the or \$3 each. These prices, however, are for Philippine Islands and the small groups in the common varieties of each denomination; their vicinity is more unsettled and the there are in addition from one to five or publishers are cautious about performing six varieties of each regular type. These any work which subsequent occurrences came from the fact that the government may force them to undo. Just as soon as used in succession two kinds of paper on anything is positively decided they are which to print these stamps. First, there ready with their pencils, they say, but since was the old paper, as it is called by it takes some time after the new plates are philatelists, and then later the silk paper, which is much rarer, and which, with many sued, it is to be feared that unless peace varieties that are common enough on the comes soon the children will have to begin old paper, makes a stamp that sells for

REVENUE STAMPS FOR ALL perforated only one way, either vertically in general design. The rarest of this issue, collectors. This is because the number of horizontally, and finally fully perforated, the highest denomination, of \$5 face value, her of stamp collectors ' now immensely one shade of color and others are doubly perforated, so that, take it all in sil, the proprietary stamps in 1878. There were now saved by these people and put in their possible varieties for a collector found in eight varieties upon various colored papers, albums. For all time to come there will

> stamps and put in its place another with a in 1894. still larger number of denominations, but with only one variety of stamps for each value. They were of precisely the same shape as the corresponding values of the former issue, but instead of various colors for the set, all, save the two highest, were printed in two uniform colors. Each stamp ton, in black, surrounded by a frame of blue that differed in design with the several denominations. The highest stamp of this issue had a face value of \$500, and was the

most valuable label of the kind ever issued by this or any other government. It was of great size, and resplendent in the four colors, blue, black, green and red. The government also had dies prepared for a \$5,000 stamt, and proofs of this were printed. although the stamp itself was never brought into actual use. Many specimens of this shade of color. second issue of revenue bring high prices as curiosities. The \$500 value is quoted at ried in shape and design, many of them be-\$200, used, and the \$200 denomination at \$75. ing of great size, whilst others are cut by happened that a sheet that had received are and bring high prices as objects of collec-

After awhile the government issued a third set of these revenues, or rather it the modest price asked for a specimen of the changed the colors of most of the denomina- 4-cent black stamp once used by Thomas tions of the second issue, the designs re- E. Wilson and \$75 is demanded either for maining as before. Instead of the uniform James Swaim's 6-cent stamp in orange, blue and black colors of the former set, Morehead's neurodyne 4-cent stamp in black each value was printed in a separate shade or Ayer's 4-cent stamp in lilac. A very with central medallions of black. None of large number of other labels are held at these stamps, excepting a few with inverted | prices approximating the above, so that it medallions, were of any great rarity. They | may safely be said that to build up a comremained in use until the document tax plete collection of United States revenue

was repealed. But as late as 1871 a set of proprietary tune. stamps was issued, many of which are now. If the stamps emitted in obedience to the tions of these, each printed in green, with number those that belong to the civil war central medallion of Washington in black, period, few of them will likely be held at

perforated only one way, either vertically | in general design. The rarest of this issue, | collectors. This is because Many of them are also found in more than is quoted at no less than \$125 by stamp greater than it was then. A very much this set range near the thousand mark, mak- but none of them were rare. When these doubtless be preserved numerous mementoes ing it by all odds the most interesting and finally went out of use the United States of our war with Spain in 1898 in the shape nine years, until the imposition of the play-The government next withdrew this set of | ing-card tax and issue of the present stamps

An Extensive Catalogue.

This, however, by no means exhausts the catalogue of revenue stamps in use during this time. In addition to the strictly governmental issues mentioned, there were the private match, medicine, perfumery and playing-card stamps. The number of these, as before said, was immense. Of leading varieties there are catalogued 179 kinds of match stamps, 250 kinds used on patent medicines, thirty-two on perfumery and sixteen on playing cards. This, however, is but a beginning of the number of varieties of these stamps that a philatelist reckens, as the most of them are found on four different kinds of paper, some of them are variously perforated and rouletted, whilst not a few are printed on more than one The medicine stamps are wonderfully va-

All the denominations are found on two dies into diamonds, circles and other unkinds of paper, pink and violet. Of course usual shapes. Most of the other stamps two impressions were required to print the are of near the common postage stamp size, in the midst of the fiercest fighting around two colors on each stamp. So it sometimes and very many of these stamps catalogued at enormous prices the impression of one color was carelessly as curiosities. Thus the 1-cent fed to the press upside down to receive the match stamp of J. J. Macklin & other. This mistake caused the specimens Co. is worth \$50, the stamp of the same to be called "inverted medallions," which denomination once used by V. R. Powell is are found in nearly all the denominations, worth as much and quite a number of others are quoted at the same figure. Many of the medicine stamps are even rarer and more valuable. A hundred dollars is stamps would require a considerable for-

extremely rare. There were ten denomina- present revenue law should ever rival in central medallion of Washington in black, period, few of them will likely be held at photogravures of the Exposition. Only and much resembling the document stamps the prices now asked for the former by ten cents. The Bee office has them.

dealers. There was still another issue of larger percentage of all scarce stamps is had no stamps of this class current, for of revenue stamps, whose issue it caused.

BOY HERO OF SAN JUAN.

A Youngster of Fourteen Who Carried Water to the Wounded. Among the soldiers from Santiago who landed Monday morning, says the New York Press, from the transport Louisiana was a boy, apparently only 10 years of age. His little, dark face, made darker by the broiling sun of Cuba and the grime and dust of a steamship, bore a troubled look. The boy was Charles Escudero, whose mother, Mrs. W. A. Escudero, lives in Columbus, O. He was worried and anxious because he wanted to go there and had no money. Young Escudero is about 14 years old, but small for his age. He was dressed in part like a soldier and was in other respects so plainly from the front that the people wondered what such a little fellow could have to do

with a fighting army. The lad's uniform was a nondescript affair-a wide-brimmed campaign hat of the regulation army pattern, a brown, ill-fitting coat, a torn blue flannel army shirt, and a pair of light seersucker trousers made for a man. Young as the boy is, however, he was Santiago. His father, William A. Escudero. is a private in Company F, Ninth United States infantry.

"Where did you land?" the boy was asked.

"On the sand," he said. "At what place?" "There was no place there, only sand, About a week later the charge up San Juan hill was made and I went all through it. At first I was by my father's side. When we got in range of the Spaniards and our men began falling I had to do duty as a water boy, running to a brook and back with water for the wounded men. Didn't have time to be afraid then. My, but that was hard work!"

Not being on the pay roll of the army, the boy was sent to the Children's Aid society. The society fed him, fitted him out with clothes, bought him a ticket for home and put him on the 7:40 train Monday night with a day's "rations."

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Hesy was indeed "a mound of many cities," no less than eight existing there, each one character, for he lived in the time just maps



captives were employed. Upon the column perched a hawk, the hawk and eagle being sister symbols of upper and lower While the pictures are interesting, the most important part of the papyrus is the inscription across the top. It is written in ancient scrip, hitherto unknown, but so primitive as to approach very closely to the hieroglyphic stage. It is translated by the discoverer: "Their yearning for freedom tinued sins cry unto Thee, O God." Whether

from the oppressor is full; their long contheir desired freedom.

fortification wall, a specimen of the labor

of brickmaking and building, in which the

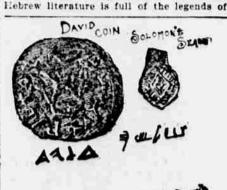
of early writing in existence.

Found in the Ruins of Lechisch. The first five books of the bible have always been known as "The Five Books of mon has been deciphered. If this is the Moses." According to the history of Josephus, the original manuscript of these, in the handwriting of Moses, was preserved in the temple at Jerusalem. The fragment in this out to his own satisfaction amid the the possession of Dr. Bruesselbach was un- various lines traced upon its surface. earthed from the ruins of the ancient city known in the bible as Lechisch. The explorer explains the transition by saying that of the king-priest, Jason. The inscription when the temple and city of Jerusalem were destroyed by the Romans (70 A. D.) these and other treasures were buried and later removed to the city of Lechisch, where many scholars had taken up their residence. The ruins of this city have only lately been unearthed. Dr. F. J. Bliss, acting for the Palestine Exploration Fund of England, found it while digging in the Tell-cl-Hesy,

studied with interest as one of the oldest Bruesselbach's party discovered a large and probably the most valuable specimen | bronze coin of David's time. It shows the crown of David with a circlet of stars The fragment is remarkably well pre-The crown was said, according to story, to served and appears to be made from the be made of gold of the value of a talent. skin of some aquatic animal, probably the The inscription about the coin reads: hippopotamus or Nile-horse. It is a vellow-"David, King of Jerusalem." On the reverse ish brown in color, crinkled and dry with side is an eight-stringed harp with the inage. The three drawings on it are done in scription: "Fear ye, repent ye, who are strong in faith." Scholars and numismatists black ink, and, as interpreted by the discoverer, apparently refer to the labors of alike are exhibiting deep interest in this the enslaved Israelites in Egypt. The bible coin, which was struck off almost 3,000 story runs (Exodus i, 11-14): "They (the years ago and passed current among the Egyptians) set over them (the Israelites)

A FRAGMENT OF THE MANUSCRIPT

subjects of King David in Jerusalem. taskmasters to afflict them with their bur-Another more notable discovery reported dens. And they built for Pharaoh store by Dr. Bruesselbach is that of the "Seal of cities, Pithom and Raamsas. And the Egyp-Solomon." There is no story more clearly tians made the children of Israel to zerve remembered by those who have read the with rigor. And they made their lives "Arabian Nights" than that of the mystic ring by which the genii was summoned to



47 WW IHIVA ANCIENT COINS UNEARTHED

LECHISCH. or not the interpretation is accurate, the the wonders performed by the might of sentiment is a proper one to emanate from Solomon's Seal, made through the wisdom of him who succeeded in giving the Israelites this wisest of monarchs. The inscription is not so easy to read as those on the coins because of the peculiar shape of the letters and the fact that they are interwoven with the design on the seal. The name of Sologenuine Seal of Solomon it also has on it "the ineffable name" of God. Jehovah, but Bruesselbach has not been able to make

Another coin brought to light is evidently to be located about 175 B. C. in the time is in a peculiar dialect of Syro-Aramaic belonging to that period and is written from left to right, contrary to the Hebrew custom of writing. The decipherment of the inscription is "K. Jehason G. Is. Coin of the City," which has been translated: "Jason, the high priest (Kohen Gedol) of Israel." On the reverse is a palm branch and a smoking altar, illustrating the priestly as the Arabs call it. He found that Tell-el- function of offering sacrifices in the temple. Scrietly speaking, Jason is not a biblical

by Dr. Bliss that Bruesselbach and his co- seal ring, bearing the name of Simeon, the Maccabee, who ruled 143-145 B. C., among the other discoveries. The inscripscript, the explorer calls special attention tion is most distinct of all, being the most recent, and is therefore more easily read

called Aleph, an ox, is really a drawing of around a seven-pointed star and run: To Test the Discoveries. While Dr. Bruesselbach has made no atempt to exploit his discoveries, he claims that there is no doubt of their authenticity. This discovery Bruesselbach thinks may At the same time, he says that there is solve what has long been a puzzle to likely to be controversy regarding the genu-In all school geographies the ineness of some of them, and he therefore proposes to place these and other manuscripts, coins and ring, which he has dug

> possible, beyond a doubt, the question of The fact that he has found a manuscript raised against the possibility of Moses hav-

The discoveries of Dr. Bruesselbach will

wo boys and a girl.

tained by Judge Pryor.

She alleges she ascertained he had dis-

school this fall with their old-fashioned a high price. Then, too, the stamps were maps

extensive set of stamps ever issued. High-Priced Stamps.