That mankind is easily duped, and antiquarians and collectors proverbially so, is too well known to need commenting upon here, but still the public has a right to expect that those who profess to guide them in any particular study should be more wary than to be humbugged so easily and twice running, as we must admit having been by the two impostors that head this article; our excuse being that one of the stamps (the Ecuador) was presented to us but two days before going to press, and we, eager, to give all the information in our power, inserted the notice of the “new issue” without sufficient investigation; and also that older heads were worse sold than ourselves.

In the May number of our first volume we noticed the appearance of a new stamp for Paraguay, of the value of 5 centavos, but stated that we had some doubts of its genuineness; we also noticed it in the July and September numbers, but always with suspicion. In the July number of the Stamp Collector’s magazine appeared a letter purporting to have been sent to a person named Charles P. Wright by the Hon. Charles A. Washburn, United States Minister to Paraguay, describing the stamp and also giving a letter from “Don Jose Marillo,” who was supposed to have been “Director of Posts” in Paraguay.

On reading the above described letters we had strong suspicion of their genuineness, not doubting the Stamp Collector’s Magazine, but knowing the vile set of thieves who have been filling the country with counterfeits and humbugs would not stick at anything to serve their interests, and concluding that it was our duty to hunt them up (and now they have committed a state prison offense, and the facts put in the hands of an experienced detective, nothing will be spared to bring them to justice), the case was debated by the Society, and Dr. Petrie, kindly undertaking to find out the truth of the case, wrote to the postmaster at Yonkers, inquiring if any such person as Charles P. Wright was known or received letters there; the postmaster replying in the negative, he at once wrote to the Hon. Charles A. Washburn, asking if he wrote the letter in question, but on account of his returning to the States before it reached Paraguay, has not been answered.

On the arrival of the Hon. C.A. Washburn in this city, another member of the A.J. of P. Wrote him, asking the same information, and receiving the following reply:

BREVOORT HOUSE, DECEMBER 29, 1868.

J.W. SCOTT, Esq.,

SIR: - During my long residence in Paraguay I never saw or heard of such a thing as a postage stamp of that country. None were ever used there. The correspondence of which you send me a copy is all a forgery. I never received and never wrote any letter to “Charles P. Wright of Yonkers,” as appears over my signature. I know of no such man in Paraguay as Don Jose Marillo. Certainly the Director of Mails is not a man of that name. The stamps which you have sent me purporting to be Paraguayan is the first one
of the kind I have ever seen. The whole thing is a fraud, swindle and forgery, and you are at liberty to publish the fact and give me as authority.

Your obedient servant,
CHARLES A. WASHBURN,
Late Minister of Paraguay.

The above is quite conclusive evidence in regard to the Paraguay humbug.

The Ecuador that heads this article is, together with one of the value of two reals and the Guatemala humbug, the work of the same scoundrel.

We hope this will prove a warning to those who have been chronicling of new issues, as it most certainly will be to us and American collectors.