



The **Halfpenny Rose-Red (SG48/49)**, first issued on 1 October 1870, was the first halfpenny postage stamp issued in the United Kingdom. The halfpenny stamp was introduced following a reduction in the postal rate for newspapers and postcards. The stamps were line-engraved with letters in all four corners and with Plate numbers incorporated in the design. Notable features of the issue include:

- It was designed to be approximately half the size of the corresponding one penny stamp and is notable for being the smallest UK postage stamp ever issued at 17.5mm×14mm.
- The stamps (nicknamed "Bantams" due to their small size) were printed in sheets of 480 (20 horizontal rows of 24 stamps), using check letters AA to AX in top row to TA to TX in bottom row
- The stamps were line engraved and featured a bust of Queen Victoria - engraved by Frederick Heath - in profile with "1/2d" on either side.
- A plate number was engraved in the design, in the left and right side lace work. The plates were numbered from 1 to 22, but plates 2, 7, 16, 17, and 18 were not completed, plates 21 and 22 were not used and plate 9 is now scarce because it was a rarely used reserve plate - see opposite for more information.
- The stamps were watermarked with the word "halfpenny" in cursive that extended across three stamps - it can appear normal, inverted, reversed or completely absent.
- The stamp was replaced in 1880 by the surface printed Halfpenny Green stamp.

1/2d Bantam: Plating Technical Information

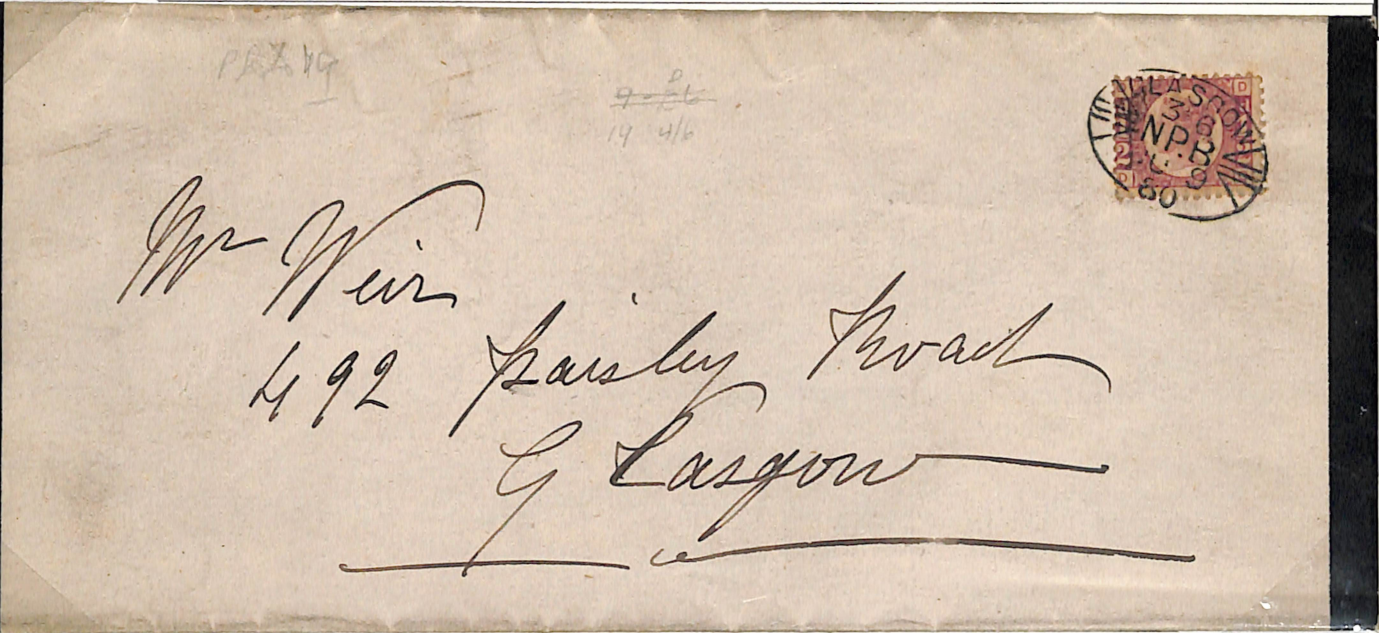
Plate Number	Number of Sheets Printed	Earliest Known Usage
1	121,500	01/10/1870
2	Plate not completed, became experimental	
3	192,500	01/10/1870
4	264,600	15/10/1870
5	533,200	24/10/1870
6	402,100	19/10/1870
7	Plate not completed	
8	76,115	31/10/1870
9	36,617	05/12/1871
10	386,100	22/12/1873
11	411,000	04/06/1874
12	442,556	28/08/1874
13	310,487	27/06/1876
14	270,579	09/03/1877
15	160,316	10/07/1878
16	Plate not completed	
17	Plate not completed	
18	Plate not completed	
19	145,299	23/08/1878
20	74,531	04/10/1879
21	Completed not used	
22	Completed not used	

STRUCTURE OF EXHIBIT		
Page	Description	Summary
1	Introduction	The Humble Bantam
2-3	The Design	Various stages in the design process, leading to a big block for a small stamp
4-7	Mint Examples	Singles and larger blocks, positional pieces and varieties
8-10	Used Examples	Showing used with Glasgow postmarks and different usage
11-12	Used on cover	Commercially used examples, including First Day Cover

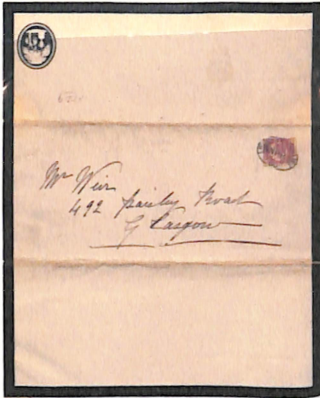
Format used throughout exhibit
Plate
Number in circle



Letters in square



Mourning Cover sent within Glasgow
1/2d Bantam Plate 9 cancelled by
"GLASGOW NPB JU.9.(18)80"
from James Allen to Mr Weir with intimation of Funeral of Ann Allen



Scan c.25% of Mourning Cover opened out showing mark (e.g.family crest) which probably identified the sender



DP58Aa 1865 De La Rue Unadopted Essay 'DIE PROOF' for the first ½d stamp
 SG DP58Aa
 very rare
 (only 2/3 exist)
Ex Philips



DP59 1870 ½d Hand Drawn Essay by Perkins Bacon using Colonial Chalon head with a hand drawn frame on white wove paper
Illustrated by Messenger Fig.4



DP62b ½d Die Proof in black on India Paper
Void corner letters, printed in black after the die was hardened on India paper mounted on card
Illustrated by Messenger Fig.10

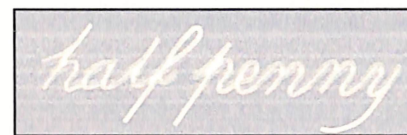


Specialist SG G4 DP68b Imperforate Plate Proof Colour Trial
A fine vertical pair cancelled by the listed trial cancellation
"CHARING CROSS CX"
A VERY RARE multiple

The small size of the stamp meant the sheet consisted of 480 stamps (20 rows of 24 stamps), using bottom check letters ranging from AA to AX in top row heading to TA to TX in the bottom row. The left/right sides are normally straight edges (bottom left check letter A has straight edge on left, bottom right check letter X has straight edge on right). The watermark may appear normal, inverted, reversed, or completely absent in some cases.



Specialist G4e
Inverted and reversed watermark, strip of 3 showing the complete 'HALFPENNY' watermark



Watermark W.3

14

T-R
S-T

3

M-J/O-J
J-M/J-O



A number of Die Proofs of this issue
are known from DP58A (1865)
to DP64 (1871)

**Ormond Hill
Die Proofs DP64b**

*These were printed in seven colours - dull lilac-rose, bright ultramarine, umber, brownish orange, orange-red, chrome-yellow and pale sage green.
(Ormond Hill succeeded Rowland Hill when he retired in 1872)*



Die Proof without corner letters
*in DULL LILAC-ROSE on thin white wove paper [LH]
and in ULTRAMARINE on thin white wove paper [RH]*
Very scarce

Late Proof from Halfpenny Die



**DP69 1890 'GUILDHALL' Master Die Proof of the 1870 1/2d Issue
in black on white wove paper**

*In April 1890 consideration was given to using the dies of the line engraved stamps
in connection with the Jubilee celebrations; proofs were taken but not used.*

**A Big Block for such
a Small Stamp!**

15

A-K/F-K
T-A/T-F

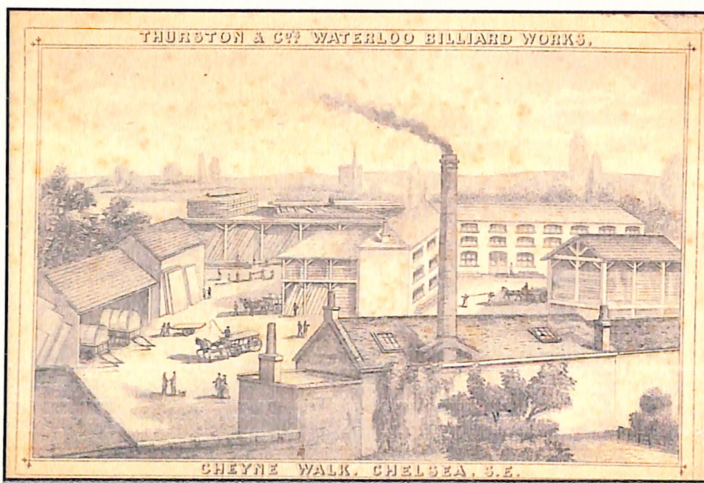


Large Block of 60 (6x10)

*While larger blocks are known, this is an attractive block
with excellent colour and perforations*



16, CATHERINE ST., STRAND, LONDON, W.C.



Reverse Scan @50%

*1/2d Bantam on superb advertising "book post" card from THURSTON & CO Billiard Table Manufacturers in the Strand
Crisp "NPB" cancel*

5 S-L
L-S

Plate 9 is, by some way, the scarcest plate number. Unmounted mint, decently centred copies with strong colour are hard to find!



9 J-C
C-J



1 M-R
R-M



3 K-Q
Q-K



4 E-Q
Q-E



5 G-L
L-G



6 B-C
C-B



8 G-M
M-G



10 R-J
J-R



11 U-A
A-U



12 N-K
K-N



13 E-D
D-E



14 N-O
O-N



15 F-Q
Q-F



19 C-C
C-C



20 H-T
T-H



Example (Specialist SG G4e) with
Inverted and Reversed Watermark
Very Scarce



9

P-A
A-P

Imperforate single

1

W-F
F-W

RH Marginal imperforate single

1

XC
C-X

Four margin imperforate imprimatur

1

V-T
T-VImperforate 'Block'
of 43 from two
rejoined imprint
vertical pairs

1

S-A
B-S

1

TA
B-T

4

E-R
T-F

Example with sheet
margin attached
showing inscriptional
detail

4

A-P
P-ABottom marginal block
of six

6

A-E
E-ALeft hand marginal single
Imperforate and
inscription on margin

6

T-A
D-X

3

X-B
B-XMint imperforate at right
with selvageInscriptional vertical strip of 4
complete with Plate Number with
the listed variety "imperforate
one side / with selvage).with
sheet margin attached showing
inscriptional detail

3

X-Q
T-XMarginal strip of three showing
part inscriptional detail

5

X-L
N-XBlock of 20
Plate marking '2' on top margin, inscription on right margin



11 X-F
I-X



Marginal strip of 4
Imperforate between stamp and margin

12 K-I
J-L



Mint block of 4 SG49 Rose
(The deeper of the two shades)

13 G-A
B-I



Block of 6
Top sheet marginal
with full inscription

12 K-N
O-K



Watermark Variety
Inverted and Reversed
Easier to see variety in a pair

14 A-A
A-A



Upper left plate number
Corner single

15 D-N
N-F



'Half penny' watermark
on strip of 3

15 X-J
J-X



Mint example with Plate number
and marginal perforations

14 X-O
R-X



Strip of 4 imperforate at right
with marginal inscription

20 X-J
J-X



Mint example, imperforate at right,
showing part inscriptional detail
and sheet guide lines



"SPECIMEN" Overprint Type 9

OVERSEAS Use
CYPRUS SG1 [1880]

10 B-L
L-B



12 E-F
F-E



13 I-C
C-I



15 S-I
I-S

19 S-N
N-S



19 B-S
T-B



Used example

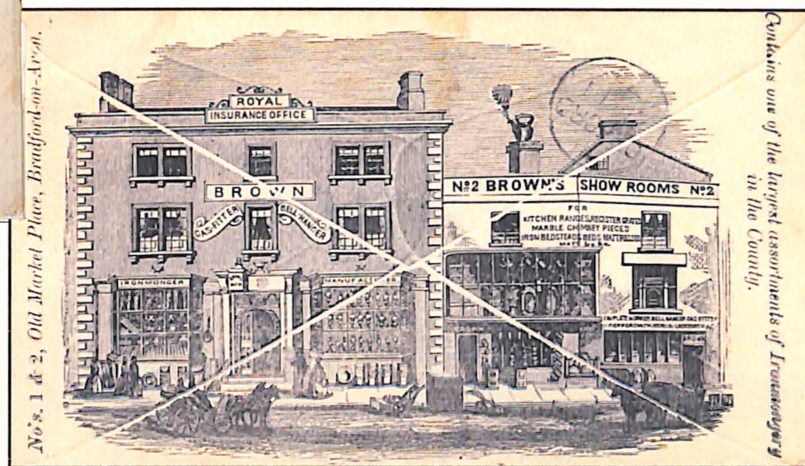
1d Letter Rate paid with 2x½d Bantams



5 B-S
T-B

Reverse scanned c. 75%

Attractive pre-printed envelope from "Brown's Ironmongery"
with a depiction of their stores on reverse
Envelope addressed to Oxford
Franked by a vertical pair of ½d Bantams
Both neatly cancelled by a single duplex
"BRAFDORD-ON-AVON" "106" "AP.10.1873"





Call me parochial, but I particularly like examples used with a 'GLASGOW' cancellation. Here I show examples on each Plate Number including No.9 but Nos 1 and 19 remain elusive. However, I have found a PL.9 example used on the first day and a particularly good strike on PL.19

1

P-N
N-P

Used on small piece with
"LONDON OC.1.1870" - the
FIRST DAY of ISSUE

3

U-H
H-U

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW AU.30.71"

4

X-R
R-X

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW DE.23.72"

5

N-A
A-N

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW MR.9.72"

6

G-P
P-G

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW OC.20.75"

8

D-M
M-D

Cancelled "Glasgow"

9

O-G
G-O

Cancelled "GLASGOW"

10

F-N
N-F

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW DE.10.75"

11

F-T
T-F

Used on small piece cancelled
"GLASGOW OC.24.77"

12

T-A
A-T

Used on piece cancelled
"Glasgow JY.22.75"

13

C-D
D-C

Used on piece cancelled
"Glasgow N.P.B."

14

E-E
E-E

Cancelled
"Glasgow", Date indistinct

15

Q-B
B-O

Used on piece cancelled
"GLASGOW AP.16.72"

19

W-L
L-W

Used on small piece cancelled
"YARMOUTH NORFOLK JA.9.79"

20

P-R
R-P

Cancelled
"GLASGOW FE.17.80"

10

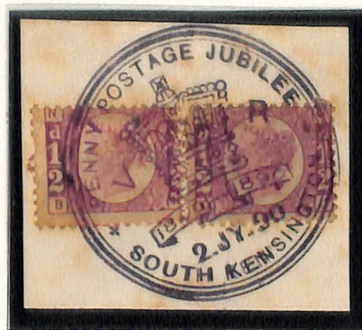
P-Q
O-P

Used on small piece cancelled
"DUNFERMLINE JU.4.(18)74"

And a bonus, for the
TRULY parochial,
given the location of
the Exhibition



6

N-B
B-NJ-G
G-J

Two copies tied to piece by a complete strike of the 1st day of the Penny Post Jubilee Commemorative postmark

Imperforate

6

M-G
G-M

SG49a

Imperforate cancelled with heavy London strike "W.C./4"

1

T-E
F-T

Used pair
Numeral cancel
'383' of Hull

19

X-M
N-X

Used pair, imperforate at right, showing part inscription
Numeral cancel
'284' of Dunchurch

Watermark Varieties

10

C-R
R-C

11

K-O
O-K

12

S-K
K-S

Particularly neatly cancelled examples with consecutive plate numbers used on piece
"NEWCASTLE ON TYNE MY.26.79", "BRADFORD MR.24.80"
and SHEPTON MALLET JU.20.78"

8

I-J
J-I

Reversed Watermark
Fine "DUMFRIES" cds

12

F-N
N-F

Watermark Inverted
Crisp Oxford steel cds

1

V-J
J-V

Watermark Inverted and
Reversed
Specialist SG G4e

Using Bantams to Pay Rate to USA

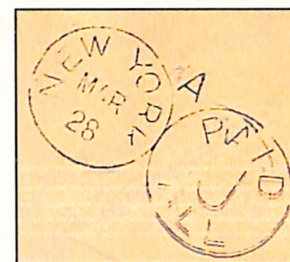


Cover from Stirling to Brimfield MA in USA
Unusual use of 5 bantams to make up 2½d rate
Cover cancelled with Stirling '308' Duplex and circular cds "STIRLING MR.17.(18)79"

Two cancellations on reverse

Receiver cancel on reverse

"NEW YORK MAR 28" "A" "PAID ALL 'J'"





Used Abroad



10

C-K
K-C

Single

D-K
N-D

Strip

Single and vertical strip of 4 on
small piece, neatly cancelled by
the "St Malo cds"
Presumably a transit application

Perfin

6

S-L
L-S

Used example with Perfin 'MBW'
[Metropolitan Board of Works]

GB Used Abroad
Essentially, Victorian 'junk mail'
Printed matter rate
Unsealed entire from
Malta to Nantes
Franked by ½d Bantam
Cancelled by
Malta "A25" Type 4 numeral
Routed via Italy without any
transit or arrival date stamps
as often seen
Dated internally
FE.2.1880

Used Abroad

10

F-B
B-F

"MALTA 1877" cds
and part red transit cancel
(SGZ23)

15

M-Q
O-M

CYPRUS SG1 Used

19

A-F
F-A

12

A-B
B-A

Cancelled 'G06'
[BEYROUT SG Z1]

11

I-M
M-I

Underprint

3

E-Q
O-E

Cancelled by
NPB handstamp

3

D-F
F-D

Cancelled by
DOWNHAM cds

4

F-N
N-F

Used

6

U-P
P-U

Used

6

I-P
P-I

Cancelled by
NPB handstamp

6

S-Q
O-S

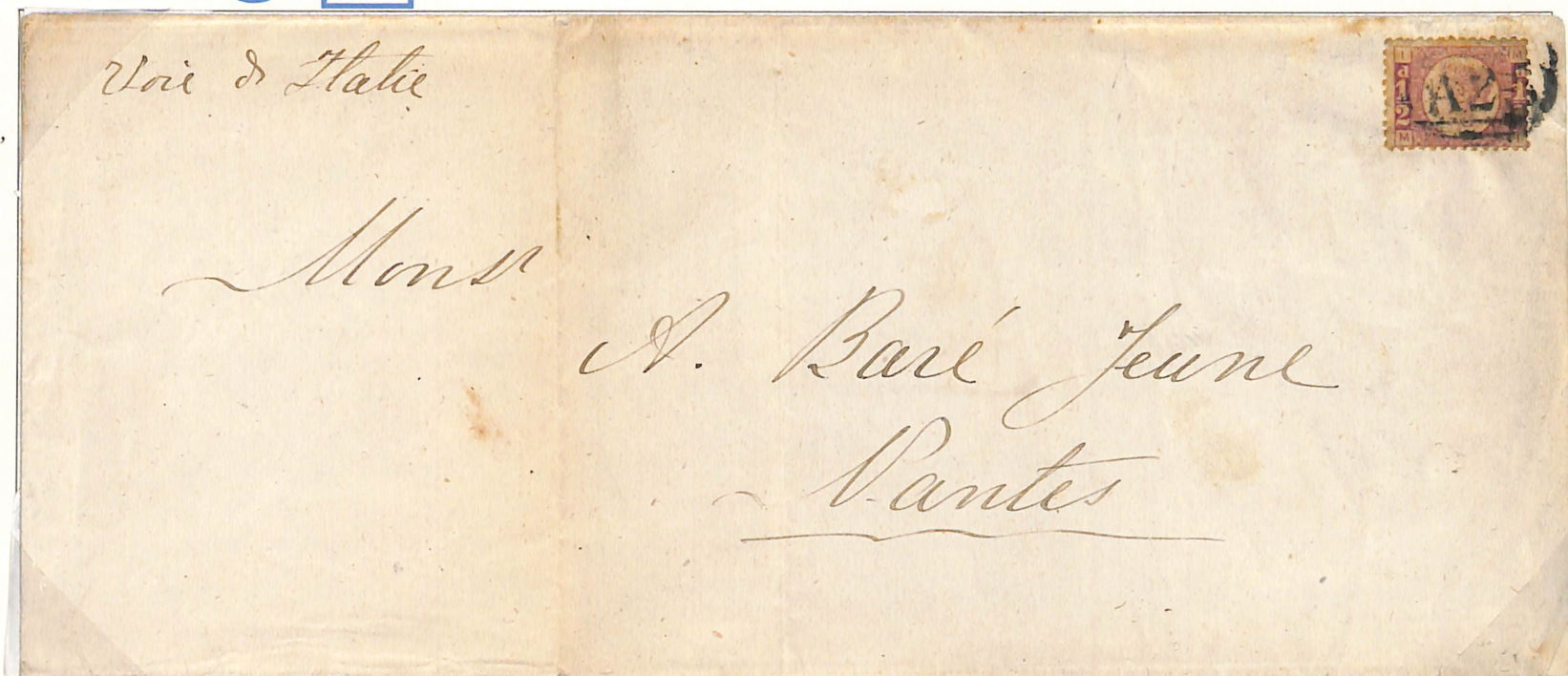
Cancelled
London Numeral

14

N-M
M-N

Fine used 1876

All examples cancelled by
Underprint Type 13
"COPESTAKE MOORE
CRAMPTON & CO LONDON"





First Day of Use

British Asylum for Deaf & Dumb Females,
LOWER CLAPTON, E.
Office, No. 27, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.

Election List for Tuesday, 25th October, 1870.

Lady Ingles

3 VOTES.

To be carefully preserved, as a SECOND List cannot be issued.

The Voting Form:
Enough time has passed
that we can probably
safely reveal that Lady
Mary Ingles gave her
three votes to Mary
Tennant



SG48 ½d Plate 1 on a Voting Form for the British Asylum for Deaf & Dumb females
(form being returned to London Office)

Cancelled by "LONDON N.W. OC.1.(18)70" cds on First Day of Issue
"LONDON W.C. OC 1 (18)70" cancellation on reverse



Book Post



Wrapper with explicit annotated "Per Book Post" sent from
Middlesbrough to Stockholm
½d Bantam added to make up rate
Cancelled "MIDDLESBROUGH AP.18.79"

This Half Sheet only need be presented to the Scrutineers at the Asylum on
Tuesday, the 25th October, 1870, between the hours of Eleven and One.

The Owner of this Paper is entitled to

THREE Votes.

NAME	VOTES
1.—FAUNCH, EMILY	
2.—MAISEY, EMMA ANN	
3.—REESE, MARY	
4.—SHEPHEARD, HARRIET	
X 5.—TENNANT, MARY LOUISA	3
6.—WARD, SARAH ANN	
7.—WHITEHOUSE, TRYPHENA	

Emily Tennant
Secretary

Successful Candidates at the Election 26th October, 1869.

1. MARVELL, ISABELLA.....459. 2. DADSWELL, EMILY FRANCES.....456. 3. SCOLTOCK, EMMA.....365.

Unless the following Form is filled up the Votes cannot be received.

FORM FOR VOTING.

I hereby Vote for the Candidate against whose name I have inserted a number

Subscriber's Signature *Mary Ingles*

Address *7 Bedford Square London*

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING.

- 1.—Subscribers or Donors having **One Vote**, can only give the same to any **One Candidate**: those having more than **One Vote**, give the whole to any one Candidate, or divide them at pleasure, taking care not to exceed the number of Votes prescribed.
- 2.—The number of Votes given should be placed on the **right-hand** side of the Candidate's name, and the Signature and Address of the Subscriber should be attached to the "Form for Voting" above.
- 3.—Subscribers should fill in their Votes in favour of some given Candidate, before putting with the paper. Any list filled beyond the number cannot pass, and no erasure or correction can be admitted without the signature of the Chairman on the day of Election.
- 4.—Voting Papers may be delivered or sent (if by post, prepaid) to the Secretary, at the Office, 27, Red Lion Square, London, E.C., provided the same be so delivered, or sent **three** clear days, at least, prior to the day of Election.
- 5.—Forms of Application for the admission of Candidates, Lists of Subscribers and Donors entitled to Vote, Voting Papers, &c., can be obtained on application to the Secretary at the Office.



Correct Single Use on Printed Anti-Valentine



Entire sent locally from Arbroath to Chance's Inn, By Arbroath
Cancelled by "13" Duplex and "ARBROATH FEB.28.(18)72"