

from one of 1858. After inspecting a large number of these cents I found other specimens some of them differing slightly from which I have learned that more than one die was altered and that this alteration on the old dies was made by hand.

We may get at the reason why a custom prevalent in the early years of the United States mint but now long abandoned as barbarous should have been adopted by the Royal Mint in striking our first Canadian coinage, by looking into some of the circumstances connected with the history of this coinage. The order was received from the Canadian government late in the year 1858, and it was in November or even as late as December before the work of striking the cents was begun. The order which seems very large for the population of less than a million and a half then living in old Canada was for 10,000,000 and could not therefore be completed in so short a time. It, in fact, the bulk of it, had to be completed in 1859. And as it is customary in the Royal Mint to call in from the coining room on the 31st of December all dies issued during the year; the dies from the Canadian coinage were returned with the others. To prevent delay in the work of coining, new dies with the new year's date are always ready for placing in the presses on the 2nd of January. But by some neglect new dies for the cents had not been prepared. The old dies used in 1858, were therefore hastily altered that there might be no delay, and made to do duty until new 1859 dies could be got ready.

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ATLAS NUMISMATIQUE DU CANADA.



WE have before us a copy of the above work by Dr. Joseph Leroux of this city. It is in French and English and doubtless contains a great deal of valuable information, although we believe that many pieces (tokens) are described which cannot truly be