

coins represented by the Spanish silver dollars would be doubled, the ring after punching passing for five shillings, and the centre piece one shilling, and the coins being rendered unfit for circulation in any other country, must stay for use in the community. An order in council was all that was necessary to effect these desirable ends. I am not sure that the Governor troubled himself even to get this authority, for he was one that thought himself quite fit to govern the Island without help from council or parliament. At all events the dollars were duly punched. But there was dwelling in Charlottetown a canny Scotchman, Mr. Birnie by name, who discovered that Governor Smith had made his punch too large and that the centre pieces were worth more than one shilling. He carefully collected them and sent them to England to be sold for old silver. The story does not tell whether they were insured, but most likely not, for I do not suppose there were any insurance companies doing business in the Island in those days. This is certain, however. Mr. Birnie made a loss if they were uninsured,—for the ship that carried them was never heard of again, and the centre pieces punched from the Spanish dollars by order of Governor Smith lie at this moment somewhere under the waves of the broad Atlantic.

EDWARD BAYFIELD

A HINT TO CRITICS.

"Not every poem's good because it's ancient,
Nor may'st thou blame it just because it's new.
Fair critics test, and prove, and so pass judgment ;
Fools praise or blame as they hear others do."