

**BATTLE-FIELDS AND BELIEFS.**

Nothing is more saddening than the gradual destruction, the sweeping away, of the beautiful and innocent beliefs of childhood. We are taught in early life to write letters making known our wants to Mr. Santa Claus, and every Christmas finds thousands of flushed and happy little believers in the bearded distributor of presents awaiting his coming to their homes by way of the chimney. Robbed of faith in Santa by a blundering father, the boy learns to pin his faith to some of the great characters in history. He worships Wellington and idolizes Nelson, until he learns that some "gentleman of repute and knowledge" has discovered that the conqueror of Napoleon on the field of Waterloo never gave the memorable command "Up Guards, and at 'em," and that Nelson, on the glorious day of Trafalgar, never even thought it necessary to signal the fleet that England expected every son of a gun to do his duty. Later, the disappointed and somewhat sceptical youth joins a debating and literary society, but only to have his cherished belief in King Charles the First as a martyr, shattered by evidence that his execution was quite justifiable; and his youthful admiration for the beautiful Queen of Scots, Mary Stuart, quenched by the discovery that she was a sad degenerate, and no better than she ought to be.

And now we have to suffer the destruction of our belief in battlefields. THE CHRONICLE has frequently cried at the mere mention of the threatened conversion of the historic Plains of Abraham into building lots upon which to erect modern semi-detached villas. What, desecrate the spot on which our hero, Wolfe, and the gallant Montcalm, died fighting for the lion of England and the golden lilies of France. What, permit the field on which the opposing armies of two great nations met in a famous and final struggle for supremacy, to become the property of the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker. Perish the thought.

Yet, something must be done. We decline to subscribe to the belief that the something now being attempted is a devilish scheme for getting over the Plains of Abraham grievance. At the same time we must say, that if at this late day, we are to be asked to renounce our belief in the famous battlefield, to be told that we have no proof whatever as to the identity of the so-called Plains of Abraham, with the place where Wolfe and Montcalm fell, it only adds another to the many grievous disappointments we have suffered at the hands of "gentlemen of repute and knowledge."

Another beautiful belief of generations of children is swept away. Let it go. We would rather try to become reconciled to the loss of Wellington's command, Nelson's signal, and other long-cherished traditions; we would prefer to part with the Plains of Abraham rather than have the Government appoint

a committee of experts (civil engineers, military historians, etc.), for the purpose of locating this lost battlefield. We know what would happen. Some one of them would give us further cause for grief by discovering that Wolfe and Montcalm never lived at all, but were originally created by guides to tickle the tourist's imagination, and have only been allowed to have historical existence as an attraction for visitors to the old city of Quebec.

**A MINT IN CANADA.**

It is reported that a branch of the British Mint is to be established in Canada very shortly.

This decision on the part of the Imperial authorities is a tribute to the Dominion as a gold producing country, and will tend to effect a settlement between the rival schools of financiers, one of which desires a Canadian Mint, while the other seeks to perpetuate the present condition of affairs.

Our readers will probably remember that the Canadian Bankers' Association entered a very strong protest against the establishment of a Canadian Mint, when the establishment of one was proposed about a year ago. The chief argument of the bankers at the time was, that Canada was already better served by the use of the United States and British gold coins than it would be by a coin which would not be legal tender in either of those two great countries. Another argument, which can be seen only by reading between the lines, was that the banks were in a position to handle all the gold output of Canada as bullion, unminted, and that the minting of it would only add unnecessary expense.

The present proposal removes the only objection that can be made against the coinage of gold in Canada. It may be taken for granted that this branch of the Imperial Mint will coin sovereigns.

The history of the struggle for the establishment of a Mint in Canada is interesting. It really begins many years ago, but for practical purposes began with the presidential address of Mr. D. R. Wilkie, General Manager of the Imperial Bank, at the annual meeting of the Canadian Bankers' Association in Toronto, in 1898.

In the course of his address, Mr. Wilkie said:

"I am not unmindful of the objections which have been raised within this Association to the creation of a Canadian Gold coinage, and as long as the gold product of the Dominion was comparatively insignificant no good reason could be brought forward for the establishment of a mint, but the growth in the output of gold from \$907,601 in 1892, to a probable output of at least \$18,000,000 in 1899, with every prospect of an ever increasing annual production, has brought with it changed conditions. Are we not throwing away our opportunities and underrating our importance in sending our banks and our miners to Seattle, San Francisco or New York, past our own