

THE NEW CENT OF 1876.



AFTER an interval of seventeen years a new copper or bronze coinage has been issued in Canada. Another Cent has appeared, yet under an old dress, so much does the Cent of 1876, resemble that of 1859. But still it has its differences, metal has considerably depreciated in value, and now we have one third more in thickness and weight in our present coin, while the figure of our Queen is older, having naturally so to speak, advanced in age with the lapse of years. The head too is coronated, and has a different arrangement of the hair. On the reverse the impression is bolder, and we notice besides the altered date, the letter H, the mark of our Canadian mint and moneyers, Heaton & Sons of Birmingham.

It may seem strange that we have been so long without such numismatic novelties seeing that Canadian silver Coins have been freely issued for the past six years. But now even is copper with us a real desideratum? Canada has not during the present generation at least, been at a loss for necessary copper change. The difficulty has often been the other way. Too much such change. Her liberal financial policy in accepting as such, everything that even resembled a copper coin, precluded any dearth in that article. For coins of all nations, and *mints* were available as change. Even in 1869, when the half of this Cosmopolitan Currency was withdrawn from circulation, there remained of the uncondemned Bank issues ample for the wants of the country.

We well remember the time when the first issue of cents was offered at twenty per cent. discount. The Bank of Upper Canada was then the government agent, and found it difficult indeed to get them into circulation. When the Bank failed, the amount still on hand, some twenty thousand dollars worth, was disposed of at from twenty-five to fifty per cent discount.