

or two other eastern nations is only known by their money.

The history therefore of any country is not complete without a history of its coinage. And numismatists have in many departments done their work thoroughly. Over and over again has the story of the Greek drachma or the Roman denarius been told with increasing interest. And their descendant, the English penny, tells more fully than aught else of the thousand years throughout which the Anglo-Saxon has risen, developed and spread.

We in Canada also have something to learn from the form and finish of our medium of exchange. We cannot boast of the art of the Greek drachma, the wonderful family history of the Roman denarius or the long eventful reign of the English penny. And yet our currency is only a lateral development of that penny. Its story too has been told and retold.

In 1862 the Rev. H. Christmas, F. R. S., contributed an article to the *Numismatic Chronicle*, published in London, on "The copper coinage of the British colonies in America. The coinage of the West Indies, as well as that of Canada is therein described, the whole covering twenty-two pages. He ascribes altogether only eighty-nine coins to Canada and Newfoundland, of which two do not exist and one is undoubtedly Irish. Still a number of the rarer coins, for a long time only known to Canadian collectors through this work, are described.

In the same year the Numismatic Society of Montreal was founded, and little if any time was lost in organizing a committee to describe the Canadian coins. The committee consisted of Messrs A. J. Boucher, L. A. H. Latour, J. L. Bronsdon and James Rattray, who were "authorized to prepare and publish a complete catalogue of British North American coins." The committee entered into their work with vigor, and, before the close of 1863, sixteen pages were printed, describing seventy-two coins of Lower Canada. A French edition was printed simultaneously