

mens occur struck from altered dies in which traces of the eight can be seen underneath the nine. This indicates that the coinage was actively going on when the year closed, and that in the hurry to complete the order new dies of 1859 could not be prepared in time to keep the presses in operation.

1861

During this year the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick adopted the decimal system and, to accommodate the circulation to the new order, cents and half cents were coined for each. But we have no mention, in the report of the Mint, of a coinage of half cents for the latter province, nor was an order for any given by its government. We may therefore infer that, having received the two orders at the same time, the engravers at the Mint prepared half cent dies for both and that, before the mistake was noticed, a number of New Brunswick half cents were sent out along with those ordered for Nova Scotia.

As Nova Scotia adopted a standard of her own in which the pound sterling was reckoned at five dollars; differing from that adopted by the other Provinces which reckoned the pound at \$4.86 $\frac{2}{3}$. The shilling passed at twenty-five cents and the sixpence at twelve and a half. Thus no new silver coins were required but a half cent was necessary to make proper change when the sixpence was tendered. Pattern cents and half cents were struck differing in design from that adopted. But of these patterns I intend to say something in a future paper.

1862

Twenty, ten and five cent pieces were coined for New Brunswick during the year, for the difficulty in accommodating the coins of the Mother Country to the new standard made a coinage of silver necessary. Although the Mint report for this year gives the coinage for Nova Scotia as one million cents, that is two hundred thousand more than either the preceding or succeeding coinages, the Nova Scotia cent of 1862 is the rarest of the series, selling readily in good condition for twenty-five cents.