

minor than great medals were distributed, as there could not help but be more lesser than "Great Chiefs"; this fact is not borne out by the number of existing medals; the larger medals are by far the more abundant. (1) This may, in a measure, be accounted for by the fact that the minor chiefs more readily parted with their medals; and that, too, at a time when there were few collectors in the country to secure and hand them down to posterity, while the great chiefs' medals passed from father to son as an insignia of office. They have thus been preserved to the present time when the demand has so raised the price of these medals as to tempt even the chiefs to part with their treasured heir-looms. Old silversmiths relate that, as late as sixty years ago, the Indians used to bring in their medals to have them made over into gorgets and armlets; which ornaments were greatly esteemed among the dusky denizens of the forests.

Taking up these medals chronologically, the first in order is

THE MEDALS OF THE FRENCH REGIME

The earliest of this series, which can, with any certainty, be attributed to Canada, is a medal or rather five different sized medals, all bearing the same design, dated 1693. On the obverse is displayed the head of Louis XIV, with flowing hair, and on the reverse those of his son the dauphin and the three

(1) For instance, I have in my own collection six of the largest, three of the medium but only one of the smallest. Other collectors have a like or even less proportion.