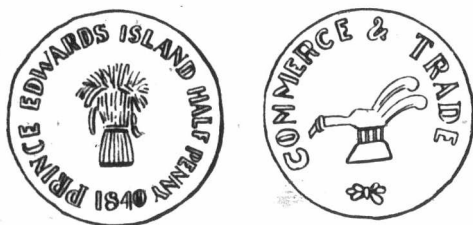


self with change, all that was needed being some sheets of copper and a suitable press. So a Mr. Milner, I have not got his Christian name, but he was a brother, I believe, of the late G. W. Milner of this city, obtained a press with dies for manufacturing the sheaf half pennies, as they are called, and had struck off about forty or fifty of them when a fire destroyed the press and the hopes of the amateur coiner, for history says nothing further with regard to him in that capacity. Hence the rarity of the coin, and collectors should not forget that it is the rarity and perfection of the coin that makes its value, not age only, though of course age and scarceness very often go together.



Another coin of interest, in that it possesses a local history of its own, is the "Ring Dollar." This is a Spanish silver dollar, out of which a round centre piece has been punched. In the old days of the history of this Island, when governor Smith held his autocratic sway, there was a great scarcity of small change and of coins of all kinds. There were no banks and bills of exchange, and bank drafts being unattainable, the merchants had to send cash for the goods purchased by them in Halifax and elsewhere. The consequence was the silver dollars were found to leave the Island almost as fast as they came into it. The happy thought occurred to Governor Smith that if a centre piece were punched from each dollar, then worth six shillings of our currency, the number of