

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. The title page reads:—"A catalogue of the silver and copper coins of Canada and of the other North American provinces." The reasons for entering upon the work are thus set forth in the preface:—

"On the formation of the society, the atten-