

of this he probably soon lost, nevertheless this capacity of civilization and his desire for superior comfort remained. He retained enough to carve out for himself a new condition, or rather civilization, in which here and there may be traced a dim semblance of the far off old, in the laws, religion, art, and traditions of Mexico and Peru.

DOLLARS AND CENTS.



THE following appeared in an English Magazine in 1864, but it will still retain interest with those who remember our "Silver Nuisance," in Canada, prior to the year 1870, the closing anecdote calls to mind our old fellow citizen, Mr. Rattray, one of our pioneer Numismatists in Montreal.

In intimate connection with the banking system of the United States are all the various and intricate currency regulations of the United States and Canada. I include the currency system of the Canadas in this connection, because, though under separate governments and political institutions, the United States and the British provinces are closely allied in their commercial, monetary, and other business transactions.

At the first glance nothing seems to be more simple and facile of comprehension than the American system of reckoning money in dollars and cents; and, if no other method were in use, nothing could be more simple in reality. With the single exception of the 3 cent piece, a piece of money coined expressly for postal purpose (three cents being the uniform rate of letter postage throughout the United States,) the decimal coinage is carried out in all the purely American coinage, which consists of cents only, in copper or nickel; 5, 10, 25, and 50 cent pieces in silver; and 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dollar pieces in gold. A few years since 3 dollar pieces were coined, and a few 50 dollar octagon-shaped coins were