

VARIOUS SILVER AND COPPER MEDALS

PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN INDIANS BY THE SOVEREIGNS
OF ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND SPAIN, FROM 1600 TO 1800,
AND ESPECIALLY OF FIVE SUCH MEDALS OF GEORGE I., OF
GREAT BRITAIN, NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THE WYOMING
HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND ITS MEMBERS.

This paper is the result of the discovery that five such medals exist in our valley. One in the possession of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society; one in the possession of Master Denison Stearns; one in the cabinet of Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, and two belonging to my own numismatic cabinet.

I have long had in mind the preparation of an exhaustive paper on the subject of the medals which the various nations of Europe, whose colonies have existed on American soil, have issued to the North American Indians since 1600. But the difficulty of gaining access to the needed authorities, has so far deterred me. I take occasion, however, in treating upon the special subject of this paper, to present to this Society such historical and medallic data as I have been able to discover in my own library.

The continent of America was discovered by the Cabots, under English auspices, in 1497, five years after the discovery, by Columbus, of the West Indies.

In 1512 the Spanish flag floated over the soil of Florida.

In 1534 the French flag was planted on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Thus, in less than forty years, three of the great powers of Europe began their struggle for the supremacy in this New World.