

Another feature of the work is the arrangement of the *un sou* series. This group of coins issued during the troublesome times that preceded the rebellion have always perplexed collectors. How to distinguish and select the different varieties has been no easy question to settle. Mr. McLachlan explains his arrangement thus :

"Before describing the *un sou* tokens it may be well to explain how they are to be arranged. To me they form the most interesting series of coins issued in Canada, for there is still much of mystery surrounding them—The questions: who were the coiners? where were they minted? who were the issuers? and what the number of varieties? remain to a certain extent unanswered."

"As all have the same design and the variations are often slight the series is a difficult one to arrange and properly describe. It will be necessary to give much of minute detail, so as to point out the differences to the collector wishing to know the vacancies in his cabinet. The frequent interchange of dies has made the matter still more complicated. It will be seen that some classification (or grouping) of the forty or more known varieties is necessary. The simplest mode of grouping them is by the variations on the reverse. I shall therefore divide the series into nine groups; (numbered from A to I,) determined mainly by the number of leaves in the wreath."

Although this is a step in the right direction, a series of illustrations of these coins, bearing the emblematic bouquet, would have been much more helpful to collectors, and here we may state for a work of the kind it should have been much more profusely illustrated. While in connection with the *un sou* series, we may quote an interesting fact regarding the finding of a pair of dies which illustrates how money was privately coined in those days.

"The dies of this coin were found in August, 1863, in the cellar of a building tenanted by Dr. Picault, a druggist. His son, having some taste for numismatics, saved them from the fate of old iron and presented them to the collection of the Montreal Numismatic Society, then newly organized, and they were the first treasure of importance that came into its possession.       \*       \*       \*       \*