

CANADIAN NUMISMATICS.

A REVIEW.

A knowledge of the coins of a nation or age is almost equivalent to a knowledge of the history and characteristics of its people. A learned numismatist has a more thorough knowledge of history than the average historian. In their coins we learn as much of the art, the religion, the geography and the history as we do of the currency of the Greeks. The coinage of the Roman republic is a history of its great families. And the details of the history of Bactria and one or two other eastern nations is only known by their money.

The history therefore of any country is not complete without a history of its coinage. And numismatists have in many departments done their work thoroughly. Over and over again has the story of the Greek drachma or the Roman denarius been told with increasing interest. And their descendant, the English penny, tells more fully than aught else of the thousand years throughout which the Anglo-Saxon has risen, developed and spread.

We in Canada also have something to learn from the form and finish of our medium of exchange. We cannot boast of the art of the Greek drachma, the wonderful family history of the Roman denarius or the long eventful reign of the English penny. And