

Mr. Hechler's Vindication.

AS Dr. Fraser has published parts of Mr. Hechler's correspondence, suiting his own views, we give the letters in full, so that the public can judge them.—ED.

[COPY.]

134 ARGYLE ST., HALIFAX, N. S. CANADA.

18th January, 1887.

C. E. FRASER, JR., ESQ., M. D.,

Lee Centre, New York, U. S. A. :

Dear Sir,—Your favor of the 13th instant is received, and its contents have been duly noted.

Your theory that the dies of the Ferry Tokens are in existence and in use is clearly untenable, because the tokens in question were struck to order in England, and the dies were destroyed without ever being brought to America. I am on the spot, and have satisfied myself by thorough and careful enquiries of the facts in the case. About a year since a new Ferry Company was organized, which bought out the property and effects of the old company, and decided on tearing down the old Ferry House. One or two persons who were engaged in the work of demolition found a few of the tokens and appropriated them. Knowing nothing of Numismatics they threw their find upon the market all at once. This was very injudicious, as its effect was temporarily to break down prices. Still the number found was so small that it cannot permanently affect figures, and they must before long recover their legitimate place as rarities. So confident am I of this that I would not offer those that I have if it were not that I am about retiring from the coin business in order to have more time to give to philately.

I receive sales price lists from New York regularly, and I must say that I have seen no quotation so low as \$2.05 for unc. tokens nor anywhere near that figure. Used ones recently brought \$4 there.

I enclose for your inspection one each of the unc. and of the slightly used, and guarantee that the rest of the lot that I offer are in exactly the same good condition as those that I now send. I presume that it is hardly necessary to request you to handle those specimens carefully, so that if you do not accept the terms that I shall propose below they may come back to me—the unc. one especially—untarnished.

The price that I had set upon and that I expected to receive for the lot that I offered you, viz:—5 unc. and 3 slightly used, was twenty-five (\$25) dollars, but if you take them all I will allow you a discount of 20% from that figure, making them twenty (\$20) dollars *net cash*. If you only wish to take a part of the lot I will let you have the unc. at \$2.75 each, and the others at \$2.25 each. These prices are strictly *net cash*. Of course I could get better prices if I chose to wait and peddle them out, but, as stated before, I am giving up the numismatic trade, and I prefer to let them go *en bloc* if possible to a dealer who will appreciate them.