

A FEW HINTS

ON

DECIMALIZING THE CURRENCY.

Observing among the reported proceedings of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly, a notice of motion to the following effect: "That after the 31st day of January, 1857, accounts in this Province shall be kept upon the decimal system, of which the Dollar shall be the unit, and the intrinsic value of the circulating coinage assimilated to that of the United States," and having in the Old Country, (from which I am but a few months out,) taken an interest in the question of a decimal currency for Great Britain, to the extent of contributing a paper on the subject to the Transactions of a Scientific Society,* besides studying pretty minutely the Parliamentary Evidence and Report, and other publications which have emerged upon the question, I venture in this form to offer a contribution to the stock of public knowledge on this very important, and as I presume to think, little understood subject. From previous predilections, I was interested on arriving in this Province to ascertain the state of the question here, as I understood, that Canada was far in advance of the Mother Country, where "the fixing of the unit" forms a very debatable point, and I was informed that action had been taken on it, even to the extent of direct legislation, but that the Bills when sent home, according to the Constitution, for the approval of Her Majesty, had been vetoed by the Imperial Government, and there the matter has rested until revived by the above notice of motion by Mr. Mackenzie.

Why the Old Country should thus "play the dog in the manger," as it were, on this question, I am at a loss

* A Paper entitled "Suggestions for a simple system of Decimal Notation and Currency," read before the Royal Scottish Society of Arts at Edinburgh, 12th December, 1853, and by order of the Society printed in the Transactions, Vol. IV.