

the right a drawn sword; the inscription on the obverse is "130 days of siege, 30 days of bombardment;" outside this, "Republique Francaise: 4 7bre, 1870." Finally, one, having on the obverse the head of Léon Gambetta, shows on the reverse, within a wreath, minutely depicted, the cap, the fasces, the clasped hands, the plumb-level, and the words "Gouvernement de la Defense Nationale: Deputation du Bordeaux;" to commemorate the visit of a deputation from Bordeaux. (This is one of a number of popular medalets bearing the heads of generals and civilians distinguished during the siege.)

It has remained for the young Republics of North and South America to adopt nationally the emblems of Liberty, which nationally, in Europe, have been for the most part rejected, as having evil associations connected with them—rejected even in countries where civil and religious liberty is held sacred. But with communities which from various causes had been unhappily led to regard as a tyranny the rule of the nations which in the first instance planted them where they are, the cap of the Latin freedman may be a not inappropriate national cognisance, symbolizing the position which they believe themselves to have secured by breaking away from their respective parent-states. On the coinage of most of the States of North and South America the effigy of Liberty appears, or else the cap of which I have so often had occasion to speak. I shall not enter into any detailed account of the symbolism employed on the South American and Mexican coins. One specimen alone, which chances to be at hand, I describe. It is a silver coin of Peru. It shows a seated Liberty, artistically conceived and finely executed; her right hand rests on a shield which is charged with the sun in its splendour; her left holds the rod and cap; on a fillet winding round a cippus at her side LIBERTAD is inscribed. (This figure of Liberty reminds the observer of the beautiful seated HELVETIA on Swiss coins.)

It is probable that the founders of the North American Republic derived from French art, in the first instance, their ideal of the head of Liberty which was adopted on their early coinage. A grand medal was struck by the French Government to commemorate the share which it claimed to have in the establishment of the independence of

the United States of North America. The obverse bears a head of Liberty, the hair thrown back, as if by a powerful opposing gale. On her right shoulder appears the rod and cap, the latter conventionally small, as symbolic figures are sometimes made on the ancient coins; around are the words LIBERTAS AMERICANA, and below is the date, in French, "4 Juil. 1776." On the reverse of this medal is a group intended to show the "aid and comfort" given to the infant Republic by the armies of France. France, or Pallas, is seen holding in her left hand a shield on which are three fleurs-de-lis; opposed to her is a leopard (England), in the act of springing, into whose breast she is about to plunge a barbed javelin. Beneath the shield is an infant strangling with one hand a serpent which he is holding up, whilst he stoops and chokes another, found at his feet. The surrounding legend reads "Non sine dis animosus infans"—an infant full of mettle, not without inspiration from on high. With a happy aptness, which the clever designer of a medal is ever quick to observe, these words are taken from Horace, *Od. iv. lib. 3, l. 20*. The infant is of course, the young Republic; the two serpents which he is engaged in strangling denote the two armies of Burgoyne and Cornwallis, successively compelled to surrender. The dates of these two disasters are placed below the group on the medal: 17 Oct. 1777.—19 Oct. 1781. It is from the very fine head on the obverse of this French medal that the Liberty on the first silver coinage of the United States appears to have been borrowed. As to the leopard representing England: this was, or came to be, a favourite piece of symbolism with French medalists. The heraldic animals on the British shield of arms, usually styled the "Lions of Normandy," are, strictly speaking, it is said, leopards. In 1804, when Napoleon expected to invade England and to "drive," as he expressed himself, "the leopards into the sea," a medal was struck under his auspices, showing "Hercules holding between his legs the English leopard, which he is preparing to chain." This medal is figured in Edwards's Collection.

The word "Liberty" began to figure on coins circulating on this continent so early as 1766. In that year half-penny tokens were struck in England for the American colonies; they bore on one side the head of Pitt, with