



THE GEORGE BURNS FARTHING.

SOME time ago I was informed by a Western collector that he had discovered a new Canadian coin hailing from London, Ontario. After having inspected the coin I found it to be a brass farthing, size 21 *millimetres*.

Obv. :—VICTORIA REGINA. Head of the Queen to the left.

Rev. :—GEO^B. BURNS | CLOTHING | LONDON. Two scroll ornaments one above and the other below "clothing."

It was found in a small village near London and when it was shewn to Mr. Burns he stated that it had been struck in England for him and that the whole issue, one thousand or five thousand, he could not remember which, had been put into circulation. He also stated that he had not a single specimen in his possession nor had he seen one for years.

Mr. Burns commenced the retail clothing business, as a partner in the firm of Higginson & Burns, in 1861 which firm was dissolved towards the close of 1863. In 1864 Burns opened out for himself continuing alone until 1880, when he admitted Mr. Lewis as partner and commenced a wholesale business as Burns & Lewis.

From these facts we gather that the coin, if a Canadian one, cannot be more than twenty years old. But the style of workmanship and design would seem to indicate that it should be dated at least twenty years farther back. The obverse is in low relief and seems to be from a die used in