

promises were always worth their face. Early substituting copper plate for types, and using a superior paper, their shin-plasters or *bons*, as the inscription indicated, became the favorites. So highly were they esteemed, that at one time over \$16,000 worth of them was in circulation; a large sum considering the size of the city and the limited wants of its inhabitants.

This proving a paying speculation, they, for many were not redeemed, and the interest on this amount made up a considerable revenue, Messrs. Cuvillier aimed at higher operations in that direction. Plates of ones, twos and fives were ordered from Rawdon, Wright & Hatch of New York. A large number of sheets were printed from them, but just as they were ready to be put in circulation, a law was passed forbidding the issue for general circulation of promises to pay save by chartered banks.

The same act also made the further circulation of fractional currency illegal. This was the lifting of a load, an incubus from the trade of the city for such it had become. Mere shreds of paper, pieces of delapidation, the issue of firms innumerable in all stages of solvency or rather insolvency, was all that was left. A bank note reporter was of no use in unravelling this complicated skein. The best judges were frequently deceived, and had every evening to make allowance in counting their cash for a certain amount of doubtful change. But, while it was thus impossible for judges to avoid being imposed upon by these almost illegible rags, to the unsophisticated *habitants*, whose learning did not lie in the direction of a written language, they were pictures of deceit. No wonder that the return to the use of "hard" money, was received with joy by all.

To return to the Cuvillier notes. There were three distinct issues of them. Of the first I have not been able to see any specimens, and therefore cannot describe them here.

Through the kindness of Charles H. Walters, Esq., of the firm of Cuvillier & Co., I am able to present specimens of