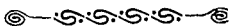


“A few years ago,” Dr. Larue says, “our *Claire Fontaine*, “with its own Canadian air, was rendered in one of the principal “theatres of Paris and obtained an immense success.”

ED. CAN. ANTIQUARIAN.



NOT A POPULAR COIN.

There is one unpopular coin issued in the United States. It is the half dollar, and it has a tendency to work its way back into the Treasury vaults, where it is not wanted. As money, nobody objects to the half, but the popular fancy is for the same value in another form. That is, the average citizen prefers to have two quarters. They are a trifle more convenient. If he wants to pay out half a dollar he can use the half or the two quarters with equal convenience, but if 25c is to be paid out the quarter is far the handier coin.

This may not seem to be a very important matter, but it counts in the long run. Little by little the halves find their way back to the Government vaults, and there they stay, like poor relations. In fact, so far as coming home in disgrace goes, the half dollar is the Prodigal Son of the Mints.

A very large proportion of the \$20,000,000 of fractional silver on hand at Washington is made up of halves. This is the lot which Secretary Foster was so anxious to get rid of, and about which he talked with the New York bankers when he made his visit there. Nobody then manifested any wild desire to take the Secretary's load off his shoulders.

It is probable that a good many of the halves stored up in Washington will be recoined into quarters and dimes. In that way they will be more convenient for popular use. And Mr. Foster will sleep more comfortably o' nights—which will be a good thing and a benefit all around.

Of course, lots of halves are used and will continue to be used. Their coinage will be kept up and nobody will have any more difficulty in getting them than usual. But the proportion of other coins will be increased because the people like them better.