

every seaport town especially, were known to hoard coin in their bedrooms or other places, varying in sums of a few hundred dollars to ten thousand and more.

About 1840 the supply of dollars from foreign sources began to slacken. The establishment of banks in the West Indies made bills of exchange a safer mode of remittance than dollars in bulk, and this with an increase of British silver gradually drove out the dollars as a common coin of circulation. It, however, held its place with the doubloon as a legal tender reserve in the banks till the time of Confederation.

The Government of Nova Scotia at various times made provision for the supply of copper coins. Acts were passed for that purpose in 1817, 1832, 1840, 1843, 1856. All but the last were known as "thistle" coppers, *i.e.*, they were stamped with the *nemo me impune lacessit* badge, the thistle, bristling out with sharp points. The issue of 1856 were "Mayflower" coppers, with a figure of that plant as the new emblem of the province on one side. In 1861, 1862 and 1864, cents and half cents were issued instead of pennies and half pennies. All those provincial coins were creditable specimens of coinage, especially the Mayflower series, and the cents. The Mayflower coin, with the handsome bust of the Queen, is a desirable specimen in any collection of coins. The cents of 1862 are scarce enough to command a premium of over a dollar.

About 1840, I think it was, there was suddenly thrown into circulation a large amount of spurious coppers. They first made their appearance in Yarmouth, where I live, and I have personal knowledge of their introduction. Some Acadian fishermen of the Wedge district near Yarmouth sold their fares of fish in the autumn of that year to parties in St. John, N.B., and received in part payment many kegs of coppers. On returning home to the Wedge they divided the coppers among their crews for their proportions of the fishing ventures, and the fishermen brought them into town to pay their bills. At first they attracted no particular attention, but when it was found that they came in unusual quantities and the story about how they came into the place becoming known, and they were seen to be Brummagens of the roughest cast, the holders began to find a difficulty in passing them off. The French people about the