

CARD MONEY OF CANADA.

(From Heriot's Travels.)

ABOUT the year 1700, the Trade of Canada was in a very languishing condition, which was to a great extent caused by the frequent alterations which took place in the medium of Exchange. The "Company of the West Indies" (to whom the French Islands had been conceded) was permitted to circulate their small coin to the amount of 100,000 *francs*, but the use of this coin was prohibited in any other country. Owing to the want of specie in Canada, a decree was published, allowing this, and all other French coins to be used, on augmentation of the value, one-fourth. At this period the *Intendant* of Canada experienced great trouble, not only in payment of troops, but other expenses. On the first of January, it was necessary to pay the officers and soldiers, and the funds remitted for that purpose, from France, generally arrived too late. To obviate this most urgent difficulty, the *Intendant*, with the sanction of the Council, issued notes, instead of money, always observing the increase in value of the coin. A *proces-verbal* was passed, and by virtue of an *ordinance* of the Governor General, and *Intendant*, there was stamped on each piece of this paper money (which was a card), its value, the signature of the Treasurer, an impression of the arms of France and (on sealing-wax) those of the Governor and *Intendant*. These were afterwards imprinted in France, with the same impressions as the current money of the Kingdom, and it was decreed that before the arrival in Canada, of the vessels from France, a peculiar mark should be added, to prevent the introduction of counterfeit.

"This species of money did not long remain in circulation and new cards were issued, on which new impressions were *engraved*, those under the value of four *livres* were distinguished by a particular mark made by the *Intendant*, while