

As the treaty that ceded Nova Scotia to the English, permitted the French to retain possession of Cape Breton they chose, for the site of their Fort, one of its harbours called Havre aux Anglaise, because in earlier times when the Island was not appropriated by any power, the English fishermen were wont to resort to it to dry their fish ; as did the Spaniards to what is now called Sydney Harbour. There the French built and fortified a town calling it Louisbourg in honour of their King. It was to be a strong place where the fleet engaged in the Gulf fisheries could resort in times of danger ; and which would be an outward bulwark to protect the St. Lawrence shipping trade from the raids and encroachments from New England. Vast sums were expended on masonry and earthworks ; and so strong did the fortifications appear that the town was considered impregnable. When, in 1720, it was completed it was a proud day for the inhabitants of New France. A medal was struck in commemoration of the event the obverse of which bears the bust of the child King with the long hair so fashionable at that time and the reverse a tolerably good view of the town and harbour. Two or three vessels are represented as lying at the wharves in the harbour, one or two others sailing out to sea and some fishing boats making for the port. The whole view, when compared with old plans, seems very accurate, shewing as it does, the pond or marsh near the entrance of the harbour and the bastions of the fortifications. Thanks to the care with which the French Government has guarded the dies, prepared under its authority, restrikes of this medal can easily be had from the Musée Monétaire, specimens may therefore be found in many collections of medals relating to America. Two other varieties besides the one described above have come under my notice ; both, apparently, the result of carelessness in the handling of the dies. One has, for an obverse, an older head of the King, apparently much older than he could have been when Louisbourg was built. The other