

THE MYNALS OF WATIONS PRESERVED UPON COINS.

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In commencing a series of papers under this head it is important to draw for the benefit of the reader, that most important distinction between the coins of the present day and the coins of which we are to speak. Let the reader take at random a dozen different coins current at this time, and examine them with reference to their history. He will see, upon one side the emblems of national sovereignty such as a portrait of the reigning prince, and the date; upon the other, some more emblems of the same class and the value of the piece. Nothing more; this is the poor, barren "reading" of every modern coin, whether gold, silver, copper or nickel. It would really appear, from looking over modern coins that the mint masters were struck with mental stupidity. Though they have the best artists in the world, all the variety they allow artists is to engrave and re-engrave, fat, homely queens; ugly, sensuous kings, and the exceedingly poor array of heraldic or traditional devices that make up modern coin language. In a thousand million coins of American and European origin, struck within the last fifty years there is not enough historical matter to fill a child's primer.

In former times it was not so. Every coin was a leaf of history to teach the people. It had on one side (called the obverse) usually the portrait of the reigning prince or some member of his family with an inscription embodying his name and title, and dates given in terms of his personal history. Upon the other side was given the historical fact designed to be commemorated in that particular coin.

In illustration of this, I begin with a silver coin struck in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius whose term of rule was from A.D. 14 to 37. This specimen is called in Latin, the *denarius*, in English, the silver penny.

This is the coin used by Bible Commentators to illustrate that interesting passage in the life of Jesus, styled "Demanding the tribute money." At the command of the GREAT TEACHER, the tribes brought him a penny. As Tiberius had at that time been Emperor nearly 20 years, and very many million of his silver pennies were in circulation, the specimens brought to Jesus was probably one like this. Yet it may have been a denarius of his predecessor, Julius Cæsar, who also struck great numbers of these coins.

This is the "penny" so often named in the New Testament. It was in all respects except one, an indispensable coin in Holy Land; it would not pay the annual dues to temple-service, that had to be done in Jewish money, viz. shekles, half shekles and subsidiary coinage, the aliquot parts of the shekel and therefore when a Jew came to Jerusalem to clear off his account, his first visit was to the "money-changers" who, for a trifling premium exchanged his Roman or heathen money for "Sacred money" as named above; with this he received his quietus from the chief of the Scribes.

This penny or denarius represents the daily pay of a Roman soldier. Its weight being about 30 grains of pure silver, the value is 15 cents, nearly, and this, with his ration and clothing, (not to say his plunder and immense donations from his emperor), constitutes the support of the trooper as well as footman. The daily wages of a Palestine laborer (called in the Bible "husbandman") was one of their denarii or silver pennies. They were composed of silver, extremely pure until about two centuries and a half after Christ, when the mint-master began to debase the coin at such a rate that the Emperor Aurelian (A. D. 270 to 275) was compelled to correct the swindle and punish the perpetrators. But so numerous and determined were the employees of the mint that it cost the lives of 7,000 Dacian veterans to accomplish this important act of Civil Service reform.

(To be Continued.)

The land in Ireland is cultivated by 600,000 tenants, who occupy an average of thirty-two acres each. There are 16,000 landlords, of whom 1,942 own two-thirds of the whole country. Mr. Gladstone says that the question of converting the disaffected Irish tenant into an owner, rises into the higher region of politics and of moral and social order, and goes to the root of how to banish Irish discontent, and although the landlords will not sell, the Irish farmer has an effectual remedy within his reach, viz: emigration to British North America.

THE DECLINE OF ONTARIO

(IN THE PRICE OF HER LANDS.)

My lovers declared I was Queen of the West,
They came from all nations to tell me so;
But all, even those who once loved me the best
No longer are charmed with Ontario.

That canny auld Scotchman he loved me so well
I thought he ne'er wad be ganging awa',
He did though, and left me to stick in the mud—
I was more gritty than Manitoba.

He caught the fever bad, so did dear old Pat,
Though on him it turned a different way;
"Good-bye, Mavourneen," and he twirled his hat,
"By the powers I'm off to Thunder Bay."

That London fellow I felt sure would propose,
With glass to his eye, my features he'd scan
Said "Hi quite fails to see the booty in you,
Hi sees hin the Little Saskatchewan."

Monsieur Jean from Quebec smiled so joli,
I interpreted "I adore you" parley vous,
Translated to Canuck I found it would mean
"Which is the best route to the Cariboo."

Callers from P. E. I., N. S. and N. B.
Prove not lovers at all, they're emigrating,
"Old girl you might do to flirt wi' awhile,
The love of a life time for Keewatin."

A Toronto bank clerk I gave him the cue
Quite in true Pinafore style, "What never,"
He smiled "Well hardly" then started to do
Haulan a boat up on the Peace River.

From New York a Yankee a Mormon at heart
Kinder sorter dropt round, 't gimme a call,
"Wal neow I reckon yer arnt no slouch yeou bet,
I guess some fine day I'll annex yer all."

I do not despair, there are still some nice boys
In Devon, Denbigh, Armagh and Forfar,
Who don't like those wild girls, but if they do me
By writing to the Dominion Bazaar

Will receive the fullest information regarding improved farms with good buildings in Ontario, for sale very cheap, caused by the big rush of Ontario farmers to the wild lands of the North West. Pamphlets of the North West and general information and all questions promptly answered on receipt of stamp for return postage. Maps (large colored) showing the new route of the Canada Pacific Railroad, in Manitoba and the North West, cloth 50 cents; paper 25 cents. Send for our special emigration supplement, issued quarterly, included free in subscription to Dominion Bazaar.

It is within our knowledge, says the *North British Agriculturist*, that the demand for farms has not been so slack in Britain for thirty years as it is at the present moment; that the number of tenants who seriously contemplate an early acquittal to save the remainder of their funds is larger than it has been for many a day. More complaints of the unprofitableness of farming have reached us since midsummer than we have ever heard before. The depression is not confined to Scotland. A gentleman who has extensive experience in farming and in business affairs in the Midland Counties of England, told us lately that there has not been so many vacant farms in his day in that part of the country as there are now; and for these, tenants are difficult to get. He added that, generally, the present position of farmers' bank accounts is much worse than it has been for many a day. This gloomy picture is applicable to a large portion of England.

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