

an instance of the use of a plural word in a singular sense, "these presents" simply meaning this epistle or official document. On both sides of these old-fashioned seals there were emblematical devices, a thin white paper was spread over the wax and the device was produced thereupon by strong pressure in a mould.

These ponderous beeswax seals became, of course, in most instances speedily detached from the documents from which they dangled. In modern times seals are impressed on the documents themselves by a simple process which need not be described and are thus prevented from being lost.

The mention of the use of literal beeswax in seals may recall with some, Jack Cade's words to his mob of followers on Blackheath, in the second part of Shakespeare's *Henry VI.*, "Some say 'tis the bee stings; I say 'tis the bees wax, for I did but seal once to a thing and I was never mine own man since."

In the words selected for use on the public seal of Upper Canada, under the name of Augustus, the reigning king of England is complimented for having as it were augmented the greatness of the Empire by the creation of new provinces. It was from adulation in this strain, based in part on the language of Horace, that down to quite a late date George the Second and George the First were to be seen life size, in the Senate House at Cambridge, raised on pedestals only a little above the floor, in the full but somewhat scanty dress of a Roman imperator or general.*

Once more.—When in the year 1867, a medal was to be devised to commemorate the consolidation of all Canada into one dominion—Horace is a third time made to supply a legend or motto—"Juventas et patrius vigor." "A youth and vigor like that of their forefathers." On the reverse of the medal, Britannia is seen seated with a group of tall and comely daughters round her, and the suggestion seems to be that they are all strongly marked by traits characteristic of the sires from whom they have sprung. On this occasion the ode entitled "The Praises of Drusus" is a second time utilized. The allusion in the first instance is of course to Drusus, who is compared to a young eagle soaring forth from its parents' nest in search of bold adventures, or to borrow the words of Theodore Martin,

" Whom native vigor and the rush
Of youth have spurred to quit the nest."

* On the globe encircled by the arm of the second George here commemorated, is to be seen in conspicuous letters the word CANADA, in allusion to the conquest of Canada at the close of the reign of that king.