

soundings proved the existence of this isle. There was a lost city which owes its place to a coin. For over a thousand years no one knew where Pandosia was. History tells us that at Pandosia King Pyrrhus collected the forces with which he over-ran Italy, and that he established a mint there; but no one could put their finger upon Pandosia. Eight years ago a coin came under the sharp eyes of a numismatist. There were the letters, Pandosia, inscribed on it; but what was better, there was an emblem indicative of a well known river, the Crathis. Then everything was revealed with as much certainty as if the piece of money had been an atlas, and Pandosia, the mythical city, was at once given its proper position in Bruttium. Now, a coin may be valuable for artistic merit, but when it elucidates a doubtful point in history or geography, its worth is very much enhanced. This silver coin, which did not weigh more than a quarter of a dollar, because it cleared up the mystery of Pandosia, was worth to the British Museum \$1,000. the price they paid for it."

This paragraph, taken from the pages of a species of universal journal, should suffice to show how great a connection there really exists between history and coins. But not only have ancient and forgotten places been recovered from oblivion through the medium of coins, not only have doubtful points of history been made clear through the same means, but even the well known events of ages and well known characters of each particular epoch have been brought forward, more faithfully and more positively, by means of these relics.

Take up a series of coins in a good collection and place them in the order of their respective dates, and then follow them back with the history of the country in one hand and the history of the coins in the other, and you will find no difficulty in tracing the advance and progress of civilization amongst the peoples. Their first coins you will find to be rude pieces of metal—by degrees they become more perfect and to contain more information. Dates, names, figures, words, phrases, &c., all serve to indicate the changes which the nation underwent.

We are told in history that when the Roman Empire