TWO CANADIAN GOLDEN WEDDING MEDALS

BY R. W. McLACHLAN

.MOST every conceivable event in human history has, in some form or another, been so commemorated by a coin or a medal that a well selected numismatic

cabinet is an epitome of the progress of mundane affairs — in fact of the social and political history of the world. In the endless variety of subjects treated of by medals hardly any incidents in every day life have been overlooked. Among them the different phases of the marriage relation have long held a prominent place; and to depict these phases medalists have vied with each in employing the many attributes and symbols of conjugal affection, in the most artistic way possible, either singly or in conjunction. Thus a collection of marriage medals forms a most interesting and instructive panorama of social life.

In Canada only two such medals have come to the knowledge of collectors. The first, although long known, is very scarce and commands a high price (1). It was struck, in 1825, to commemorate the golden wedding of Chief Justice Powell of Toronto. The design displays no portrait or family emblems, only such as relate to the marriage tie.

The medal may be thus described :

(1) Only about six copies are known. Such as have been offered at auction have sold as high as twelve dollars.