

NUMISMATIC & ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

In the month of December, 1862, several gentlemen of Montreal, desirous of cultivating the study of Numismatics,—and judging the formation of a properly organized association as the most efficacious means of attaining that end, assembled and formed “The Numismatic Society of Montreal.”

The seal of this society was the obverse of the Canadian bronze cent, with an outer circle inscribed “SOCIÉTÉ NUMISMATIQUE DE MONTRÉAL. FONDÉE 1862.” (See frontispiece.)

On the formation of the Society, the attention of members was directed to Numismatics *in general*. It was not long, however, before several members very naturally directed their researches towards the Coins of Canada. The comparatively great variety,—the artistic excellence of numerous specimens,—and divers curious incidents bearing on these coins, furnished ample material for many interesting reflections and surmises.

Few persons, outside of the Society, appear to have been aware of many of these interesting facts,—indeed the existence of several of the coins which have been described, appears to have been altogether ignored by many. With a view, therefore, of bringing Canadian coins more generally under the notice of Numismatists and others, a Committee was appointed in 1863 to prepare a Catalogue of the coins. This work was commenced but never completed.

In January, 1866, the name of the Society was changed to that of the “Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal,” and a new seal was adopted, viz. : a round shield quartered by a tomahawk and calumet, bearing an antique lamp, an ancient coin with head of