

oak that had been rather severely thinned out, putting forth fresh colonial branches in the very hemisphere where her dismemberment had been effected. Again for the public seal of the Upper Province (Upper Canada) Horace is resorted to for an inscription or motto.

"Imperi porrecta majestas
Custodit rerum Caesarum."

"The greatness of the empire advanced through the supreme guardianship of a Caesar." (Note that here Imperi is a contraction for Imperii and that some words are omitted.) The poet therein sets forth that it was due to the supreme watchfulness of Augustus that peace and prosperity had been restored to the empire. The whole passage reads as follows, in the familiar version of Francis :

"Restrained by arts of ancient fame,
Wild license walks at large no more ;
Those arts by which the Latin name,
The Roman strength, th' imperial power,
With awful majesty unbounded spread
To rising Phœbus, from his western bed."

On the Lower Canada seal was a sturdy tree stretching out a strong branch on one side, in allusion probably to the holm-oak of the inscription ; in the background is a mass of rock with shipping below ; perhaps Quebec was intended. On the Upper Canada seal was the Indian calumet of peace, crossed by an anchor with its cable, which encloses in its coil an Indian tomahawk flanked by two cornucopias of fruit and flowers. Above is the royal crown and on one side a portion of the Union Jack is seen. In both seals the reverse shows the Royal Arms of England.*

Until quite recently the seals attached to deeds and patents were circular masses of beeswax several inches in diameter, and one-fourth of an inch in thickness. Royal letters patent giving a title to lands or other rights, were open letters from the Crown, attested by seals of this description. The word "letters" is simply an ancient expression derived from the Latin, denoting the epistle or document conveying these rights, a remark useful to be remembered for the better understanding of the familiar phrase, "Know all men by these presents," where we have again

*The inscription or motto on the public seal of the Province of Quebec prior to its division into Upper and Lower Canada was from Statius, *Silvæ* v. 2-26. "Externæ gaudent agnoscere metæ." The device on the seal shows King George the Second pointing with his sceptre towards a map of the St. Lawrence region. The word seem to imply that the territory delineated cordially accepted its new master.