

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT.

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THE question of adopting a decimal system of coinage is again attracting attention in England.

THE price now asked for the seven pieces of the silver Jubilee coins (in proof condition) is eight dollars.

IN addition to above the Maundy set of 1887 comprising 4d, 3d, 2d and 1d in silver is to hand, these are of the old type obverse and numeral reverse.

To date of writing, the five cent (silver) and one cent (copper) of 1837 is all that have turned up as new features in our Dominion coins of this year.

THE Numismatic and Antiquarian Society will hold in December, on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, a loan exhibition of Canadian historical portraits and object relating to Canadian archaeology.

WE had a 1382 Nova Scotia cent offered lately, this error was committed by the die cutters. A few found their way to this country, the correction of 1832 followed. This monstrosity "the 1382" commands quite a premium.

THE coins of the German Empire may be used also as weights. A pfennig piece weighs exactly two grams; so does a gold five-mark piece. A nickel ten-pfennig and a ten-mark gold piece weigh each four grams.

TWO BIG COPPER CENTS, issued in 1817, are among the rarest in the coin collection of the Philadelphia mint. These have the liberty heads well defined but on the top of the head over the liberty cap, is a small protuberance, which under a microscope, appears as a crown. This was cut in the die by an English engraver, who thus covertly set the British crown over the American liberty head.

THE Queen has issued an order that the Jubilee medal, of which about a thousand have been given away, is to rank above all war medals, and it is always to worn on those full-dress occasions when ordinary medals are de rigueur.

AT a dinner at Roundout, lately there was a German just arrived, who had not seen United States paper money. A gentleman opposite took a \$50 bill from his pocket and endeavored to hand it to the German, but dropped it into a dish of soup. He took it out as quickly as possible and was waving it to and from to dry it, when a big dog in the room snapped it out of his fingers and bolted it down with apparent relish.

THE CHICAGO PRESS CLUB has become the possessor of a valuable historical relic in the shape of the first \$5 note issued by the government. No 1. of series A. 1852. It was presented to the club by the new treasurer, George Schneider, president of the Illinois National Bank, and is valued by numismatists at \$500. There has been for some years considerable speculation as to the whereabouts of this note, and its presentation to the club will settle the question of its location for all time to come.

IT is said that there are only seven genuine 1804 dollars in the U.S., counterfeiters have been very successful in changing 1801 issues to that of 1804. A most ingenious mode of deception is the changing of dates of common issues of a certain coin, to the date of the year whose issue is scarce and consequently high, so that it takes an expert to distinguish them. Very lately, I had sent me what the party called an 1804 cent asking a fancy price for it, wishing to satisfy myself as to its genuineness as far as possible, I applied a strong magnifier and could distinguish easily the hollowing or easing down process, the sloping and horizontal bars having been worked out of the field. I returned it with thanks.