

decimal currency of dollars and cents substituted in its stead. It is, however, one of the most difficult things imaginable to get a people to adopt a new system of reckoning money and keeping accounts, even though it be easier and simpler than the old one ; and for many years, notwithstanding that dollars and cents were the only denominations of money recognised by the Government, the people continued to reckon, in pounds, shillings, and pence, those of each section, according to their own particular system of currency, and thus the disarranged currency became perpetuated in its disarrangement. For though in course of time the general custom of reckoning in pounds, shillings, and pence wore away, the retail dealers and petty shopkeepers, in the New England States particularly, but more or less in other States, continue to make out their small accounts in pounds, shillings, and pence, to the present day ; the motive no doubt being the advantage they can take of the odd half cent which this system of reckoning entails, in making their change. The difficulty and inconvenience and loss which this practice entails upon travellers may be illustrated as follows :—

We will suppose an Englishman to have just arrived in Canada—though a native American travelling from one State to another will be subjected to a similar loss and inconvenience, since few Americans are conversant with the currency beyond their own native State—but, for the sake of making the subject clear, we will suppose an Englishman to have just arrived in Canada, and to be in ignorance, as nine persons out of ten would be under similar circumstances, of the currency of the country.

His first surprise will probably meet him on landing at Quebec ; for he will be eager to purchase some of the fruit, which the *habitants* are accustomed to carry to the wharves to tempt the appetites of the strangers just off a long sea voyage. He buys a pennyworth of apples, and offers sixpence in payment. To his astonishment he receives sixpence