

As a variety of the penny piece occurs with the ribbon inscribed "Banque du Peuple," it has been inferred by some that this bank was to have participated in the coinages of 1838 and 1839; but this is altogether unlikely, as none of the 1838 coins nor of the 1839 halfpennys are inscribed with the name of this bank. What in all probability actually did occur, was, that Furniss in seeking to impress upon the manufacturers in Walsall the necessity of producing as good a coinage as that of 1837, sent over a penny as a pattern and that, as the penny was one inscribed "Banque du Peuple" on the ribbon, a die was made like it, and that a quantity was struck off before the mistake was noticed. The fact that the letters on the ribbon of the 1839 coins are incased, proves that such a sample was sent over and instructions given respecting avoidance of the divergence on the coins of 1838.

The reverse of the coins of 1837 bearing the arms of Montreal was retained for the coins of 1838, but a new obverse was adopted. The French inscription and the habitant were dropped because of the rebellion of 1837, which, in Lower Canada, was attributed altogether to the French Canadians. Consequently, for a time everything savouring of that nationality, especially the costume worn by Papineau their leader was not zealously denounced. The design adopted instead was a corner view of the bank building, showing the St. Francois Xavier street side as well as the front; from this they are known as "side views" to distinguish them from the later "front views."

The only difference between the coinages of 1838 and 1839, is in the dates and the name of the bank on the ribbon, which on the former is raised, and on the latter in incused letters. This change was no doubt an attempt to follow the coins of 1837 more closely. The metal from which the tokens of 1838 were struck is more like brass, showing that it had been alloyed with a certain percentage of zinc, an alloy much used in the manufacture of saddlery hardware, the chief industry of Walsall. Those of 1839 are of much purer copper.

The side views have long been eagerly sought after by collectors, for they have always been scarce. On one occasion a fine impression sold as high as eighty dollars; but, from time to time, specimens have been unearthed in Birmingham and sent out here, so that now they seldom bring more than fifteen or twenty dollars. They are all equally rare except the halfpenny of 1839, which is more frequently met with.

After these two abortive attempts the bank held off for a while and did nothing in the line of a copper coinage for four years. In the meantime the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada had been united, and the ordinance of 1839 above mentioned revised and extended to the whole country. The Bank of Montreal, availing itself of the clause providing for the supply of copper coin by banks or other