

We are unable to say how many of the books have been already sold, but understand that Mr. W. C. Norris, No. 103 Osborne Street, is entrusted with the disposal of the remainder, and applications for copies of the catalogue by intending purchasers can be either directed to him, or to Reid Taylor, Esq., Park House, Panet Street, Montreal, P.Q.

THE CONFEDERATE HALF-DOLLARS.



IN the April number of the *Antiquarian** we recorded the sale by auction of a specimen of this very rare piece. The following letter has been addressed to the *New Orleans Picayune*, concerning the four Confederate coins of which so much has been written and said. Dr. Taylor's letter explains itself:—

NO 26 ST. CHARLES STREET,
NEW-ORLEANS, April 24, 1882. }

The story copied in your paper from the *Augusta News* of the 14th, purporting to be made by A. H. Peterson, of Denver, to the effect that "one Dr. H. F. Taylor, Chief Coiner of the Mint in 1861, tried to strike off a large number of coins after the war solely to sell to the numismatists at high prices" is wholly untrue. Three years since, the facts and history, with the proof thereof, were published in the *Picayune*, of the four Confederate coins made in 1861. About the time above mentioned I sold the coin then in my possession, through Messrs Mason & Co., numismatists, of Philadelphia, to Mr. Scott, of New York, with the die. That gentleman recently sold, as reported by THE NEW-YORK TIMES, the same coin at public auction for the sum of \$870. It is true that Mr. Peterson did, in 1861, make the die, but neither he nor any other person ever had it in their possession, nor were there any coins "at tempted" to be made subsequently, but the coin and die were delivered to the Messrs. Mason & Co., as they will testify. After diligent inquiry during the past three years, I have been unable to locate but one of the other four pieces, and that one is now in this city. The foregoing facts are given in justice to the public and to all parties concerned, but more particularly to the numismatist who paid his \$870 for the coin. Very respectfully,

H. F. TAYLOR, M. D.

* Vol. x. p. 161.