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THE
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN
AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL



THE NOVA SCOTIAN TREASURY NOTES
BY R. W. McLACHLAN.

IN a paper read, in 1892, before the Royal Society of Canada, (1) I referred to the Treasury Notes issued by the Province of Nova Scotia in the following paragraph :
“ Under the Act of 1812, to provide for larger coins, Treasury Notes were issued. These were gladly hailed by business men as a great convenience and passed current for all transactions within the Province. The notes were first printed from type, signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the Commissioners as provided by the Act. In 1820 regular notes, printed from engraved plates prepared by Mavrick, a Boston engraver, were issued. These notes, as the

(1) “ Annals of the Nova Scotian Currency ” in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Canada. Vol. X, Section II, page 33.

treasurer writes in 1825, were extensively counterfeited. In this letter he states that there are many counterfeiters in Boston; and, after asking that a stamp with special ink be sent to him, inquires if any paper especially made for bank notes, so as not to be easily imitated, could be procured. This Act was amended or supplemented by later Acts, as necessity required, providing for the redemption of the old notes, issuing new ones or increasing the issue. Montgomery Martin reports that in 1836, these notes had driven all gold coin out of the country, and that the amount of treasury bills in circulation, chiefly one pound notes, reached £67,644."

It was the continued insufficiency of the currency, by which trade was greatly hampered, that forced the Provincial Legislature to issue treasury notes. A scarcity of coined money seems to have been chronic in all the North American Colonies. To cure this trouble each of them successively issued a paper currency. In this innovation Canada took the lead, when Intendant de Meules, at his wits end for want of money, paid in 1685 the importunate troops, sent out to defend the Colony against the raiding Iroquois, with bonds which he compelled traders to accept as ready cash in payment for goods. Massachusetts followed in 1708, New York in 1709 and each of the other colonies in turn, Virginia being the last in 1757. This currency, although becoming more and more depreciated, continued to form the bulk of the circulating medium of the revolted colonies until 1791. After which as something almost valueless, it was repudiated.

It will be seen then that the Nova Scotian treasury notes, which were authorized by an act passed in 1812, cannot be classed along with the earlier colonial issues which had, as utterly worthless, ceased to be current twenty years before.

This act empowered the Lieutenant Governor to appoint three Commissioners "to issue treasury notes to the amount of twelve thousand pounds as follows, viz.

Fifty notes of fifty pounds each; one hundred notes of twenty pounds each; two hundred notes of twelve pounds ten shillings each; four hundred notes of five pounds each; four hundred notes of two pounds ten shillings each; and two thousand notes of twenty shillings each; making in the whole, twelve thousand pounds, which Treasury Notes shall bear lawful interest from the day they shall be issued in payment from the Treasury, and shall be indented and impressed with the words "Nova Scotia," signed by the Treasurer of the Province and countersigned by the said Commissioners and containing the following figures and words, to wit :

No.	<i>Province of Nova Scotia</i>
£.	<i>Treasurer's Office.</i>

By a law of this Province the bearer of this note is entitled to receive at the Treasury the sum of
with interest, at the rate of six per cent.
per annum from the day it is issued by the Treasurer.

Dated at Halifax, this day of
in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred
and

The Act specifies how the notes shall be paid out and redeemed and makes provision against counterfeiting and raising the value and also for the withdrawal of the notes from circulation.

A careful perusal of the Act shows that these bills partook more of the character of promissory notes than of a paper currency. The correct computation of interest on the smaller notes would be a difficult matter, as they passed from hand to hand, inducing holders to present them for redemption oftener than they otherwise would. But as the notes came to be the only circulating medium for large payments, the promissory or interest feature was dropped and they circulated as freely as the later bank issues.

The provincial authorities profiting by the experiences of the other Colonies carefully guarded the treasury so that there should not be an over issue and that the notes should be redeemed promptly when presented. So careful was the treasurer that he had to pay as high as fifteen per cent premium for exchange when par was only seven and a half to obtain the necessary specie to meet the calls of those holding treasury notes.

As has been stated these notes were printed in the province from type. The only guards against counterfeiting were the signatures of the Treasurer and Commissioners with the name of the Province embossed in raised letters. But the need for something more difficult of imitation soon began to be felt. Notes were ordered from Boston printed from copper plates engraved by Mavrick. The larger denominations seem to have been discarded as well as the interest clause in the notes.

Only the three lowest were required, ones, twos and fives, for the purposes of circulation. The Treasurer evidently distrusted the Boston people for he ordered the plates to be sent on to Halifax; where, finding no one capable of printing from copper, he could do nothing with them. He therefore wrote the following note to the provincial agents at Liverpool.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 5th June 1824.

Gentlemen,

.....
 By this conveyance I send you a small Box containing two sheets of copper engraved for one and two pound Province notes, which I cannot have struck off here for want of a competent workman. If there be such in Liverpool I have to request that you would take the trouble to have it immediately executed and sent out by the Adelphi now supposed to be near Liverpool, or any other good conveyance, on such paper as the note I enclose herein, or better for durability if to be had easily.

Forty thousand one pound notes.

Fifteen " two " "

Two " five " "

A plate must be engraved for the five pound notes, as the one I had has been mislaid. If you cannot get the notes properly executed in Liverpool you will oblige me by sending the box with the plates to Messrs. Andrew Belcher & Son, London, to whom I shall send the necessary directions, but I hope it will not be necessary since they are much wanted

here and I reckon the chance of getting them early from Liverpool is greater than from London at this season.

I will thank you to send me four or five reams of the same letter paper as what you have lately used, none good enough to be had here at present.

I remain with esteem,

Your obedient servant,

Messrs. Smith, Forsyth & Co., Mich. Wallace.
Liverpool.

The agent's prompt reply assures the Treasurer that they can have the order executed in time, but he did not allow for the delay necessary to engrave the new plate for the five pound note.

Liverpool, 6th July 1824.

The Hon. Mr. Wallace,

Sir.

.....
We have little doubt but that we shall be enabled to have the notes you ordered executed in sufficient time for the Adelphi which is to sail about the 25th instant. We have some very good engravers here who we expect will do the work well. We shall likewise forward to you by the Adelphi the letter paper you have ordered which we presume is somewhat of this quality, but rather thicker and finer.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

Smith, Forsyth & Co.

But the bills were not ready in time for part of the order only was shipped two months later as the next letter clearly proves.

Liverpool, 4 September 1824.

The Hon. Mr. Wallace,

Dear Sir,

By the present conveyance the "Maria" we have shipped a box marked M W 1 containing 5,000 £1., 10,000 £2., and 2,000 £5. Nova Scotia notes together with the 4 reams of writing paper ordered in your last. We trust the whole will arrive safe and be approved of. Should the writing paper not be such as you wished to have, we will thank you to enclose a small piece of that which you allude to and we will procure some of the same quality. We hope to have the remainder of the notes finished in the course of a fortnight or at any rate in time to put on board of the next vessel sailing for Halifax.

When they are all complete, we shall hand you a note of the cost.

Meantime we are, Dear Sir,

Your most obt., sts.,

Smith, Forsyth & Co.

A month later another shipment is made, which according to the following letter, did not complete the original order.

Liverpool, 11th October 1824.

The Hon. Michael Wallace,

Dear Sir,

We enclose you a bill of lading for a box of blanks for bank notes as specified at foot.

We are disappointed at not having the whole ready for this vessel (the Perseverance) they are getting them thrown off as quickly as they can and we expect to send you a further (if not the whole) quantity ready for the Sceptre which vessel is to sail in a few days.

Yours very respectfully,

Smith, Forsyth & Co.

The box No. 2 contains, 14,000 blanks for notes £2.

The Treasurer replies acknowledging receipt of this letter also the balance of the notes by the "Perseverance."

Halifax, Nova Scotia 19th January 1825.

Gentlemen,

Your last per Perseverance with the remainder of the Province blank notes have been received, and I presume are all correct, altho' I have been seldom in the treasury since they arrived to make enquiry.

.....

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Mich. Wallace.

Messrs. Smith, Forsyth, & Co.

Liverpool.

From these letters we learn that the five pound note of this issue which we may class as the third, was printed in Liverpool from a copper plate engraved

in that city and that, although the one and two pound notes were printed in Liverpool, the plates were engraved in Boston.

In March the Treasurer again writes about the notes in the following terms :

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 26 March 1825.

Gentlemen,

We have lately been annoyed by the discovery of our Province notes being forged at Boston and brought into the country for circulation, and I am very desirous of procuring some kind of stamp to put on the face of them that would not easily be imitated.

You have plenty of ingenious mechanics in your neighborhood, no doubt at Birmingham particularly. You will do me the favor by consulting an engraver whether such a stamp could be had, and if there is, that you would get it executed and sent out as soon as possible with suitable ink for the purpose of using it. Have the bankers in England discovered any improvement in the manufactory of paper for notes that is not liable to be imitated by our neighbours in the United States where many of the first masters of arts have congregated? A paper medium is absolutely necessary in this Province and hitherto has proved of great public utility and we have been very fortunate in suffering very little by forgery since its commencement in 1811.

I remain Gentlemen,

Yours with esteem,

Mich. Wallace.

Messrs. Smith, Forsyth & Co,
Liverpool, G. B.

The facts brought out by this letter are that the Treasury Notes were first issued in 1811, a year before they were authorized by the Legislature. This with their promissory note feature and the large denomination of many of the notes described in the act of 1812 clearly points out that the issue was made to meet the urgent requirements of the Province and tide over a financial crisis. Also that this form of currency filled a long felt want in the circulation of the Province and that the old copper plate notes, having become easily imitated, must needs soon be discarded.

The answer to this request shows that the proposition of the Treasurer could not be carried out.

Liverpool, 1st June 1825.

The Hon. Michael Wallace,

Dear Sir,

We find that there will be some difficulty in procuring you a stamp such as you require and if you had it not in your power to engrave the notes in Halifax you would experience still greater trouble in putting the stamps on notes that have been issued and consequently soiled. The parcel which accompanies, contains several devices. On the back of your own is one that might probably answer. To have it engraved on a copper plate would cost 20 gs. but then it would not be so fine and consequently more easily imitated than if it were a steel plate, this however the patentees never part with. As soon as you decide, let us know and we shall get your wishes

immediately carried into effect. Annexed is a copy of Mr. Fosberry's letter.

We remain very truly, Dear Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
Smith, Forsyth & Co.

This letter enclosed a tender for notes engraved on steel. A process apparently newly patented which the patentee guaranteed against forgery.

Liverpool, 30th May 1825.

Messrs Smith Forsyth & Co.,

Gentlemen,

Herewith I hand you a few specimens of the hardened steel plate notes now usually adopted by bankers in this country. Such is their perfection that during the last few years there has not been any instance of a forgery of such. The patentees are so confident on this point that they warrant the notes worked on back and front and engage not only to work off a new impression, etc., free, but also to prosecute at their own expense in the event of any imitation of the front plates and engage to finish a new device, etc., etc., gratis.

The expenses are, including proper paper which will last ten times longer than that now used by your friends, etc. back and fronts to be selected from any of the specimens or any part of them united to the fancy of the parties.

£1 notes	about	£5.5.0	per m.
£5 and £10	"	£6.	"

Not less than 10,000 £1, 5,000 £5. and £10., in the first order. For backs only such as the specimens on the Nova Scotia note of the proper paper £4.4.0 per M., if on your paper £3.13.6 per M. Should your friends select a note or one made up of various devices they will please to send the note or one formed like that on the back of their own note which if approved must also be returned.

I am very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

W. Fosberry.

Although this seemed to be the best way to prevent successful forgery, the Treasury rejected the offer and accepted as, no doubt cheaper, an offer for lithographed notes executed at New York.

Halifax, 19th July 1825.

Messrs. Smith, Forsyth & Co.,

Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge your favor of the 16th April and 1st June. The former enclosing accounts current to 1st of January last, and the latter, specimens of bank notes for which I am greatly obliged. They are extremely well executed and I should have no difficulty in selecting one for our Province notes, since I am aware an official check by a stamp might not be found to answer the end.

I should now send you an order to have some new notes executed but there has lately been discovered by a Scotchman at New York a mode of executing bank notes upon a stone on the lithographic principle

which has acquired so much celebrity as to entitle him to a patent in preference to Mr. Parkin's steel plate castings. With this person I have entered into correspondence and until the result is known I defer sending any order to you for a supply of new notes for the Province.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your sincerely,
Mich. Wallace.

Accordingly, we may conclude, towards the close of 1825 or the beginning of 1826 the fourth series or variety of the Nova Scotian treasury notes were issued, having been printed from stone in New York. This newly invented process does not seem to have proved all that was claimed for it as more difficult of imitation for within a few years the notes printed by it were forged to such an extent that a new issue become necessary. The lithographed notes are dull and blurred looking when compared even with the copper plate notes.

The fifth series were from steel plates engraved, in England, most probably by Mr. Fosberry who tendered before the lithographed series was accepted. These continued for a number of years, until the more elaborate and artistic notes engraved by the American Bank Note Company of New York, were adopted. This is the sixth series or change in the Provincial notes. Not having had access to any of the correspondence on this subject, subsequent to 1825 I am not in a position to state at what dates these

latter changes were made. Notwithstanding that, after the establishment of chartered banks, there ceased to be such pressing need for the treasury notes, the government continued their issue until confederation in 1867. Even now stray specimens, perhaps from old hoards, find their way into circulation and are presented at the treasury for redemption.



NOMINA CENTENUM
QUI PRIMI SOCIETATEM NOVA FRANCIA
CONSTAVERUNT

- ARMANDUS CARDINALIS RICHELÆUS, supremus navigationis, mercaturarumque Galliae Praefectus.
 ANTONIUS RUZÆUS, Regionum ordinum Eques, Marchio Effiatensis, Regi a Consiliis, & rei aerarioe Galliae Archi-Praefectus.
 ISAACUS Martinus Mauvoysius, Regi Christianissimo a Consiliis, & rei nauticae Praefectus.
 JACOBUS Castillonius, Civis Parisiensis.
 FRANCISCUS a S. Albino.
 PETRUS Blondus.
 MARTINUS Ancelinus.
 LUDOVICUS Lurius.
 SIMON Clarentinus.
 JOANNES Burguetus.
 LUDOVICUS Hoellius, Regi a Consiliis, & Salinariarum rationum Antigrapheus, Brogii.
 FRANCISCUS Derræus.

ADAMUS Mannesserijs, Civis & Mercator Portus Gratiae.

FRANCISCUS Bertrandus, Dynastes Plessaci.

MARTINUS Haguengerius, Notarius Castellæ Parisiensis.

ADAMUS Moyenus, Civis Parisiensis.

GULIELMUS Nicolæus in Majori Consilio Actor causarum.

AEGIDIUS Boysellius, Dynastes Senevillæ.

ANDREUS Daniel, Doctor Medicus.

CAROLUS Daniel, Nauticus Capitaneus.

JACOBUS Berruyerius, Eques, Dynastes Mauselmontius.

PETRUS Bulengerius, Consiliarius Regis ex Electorum classe, Montiuillæ.

JOANNES Feronus.

CLAUDIUS Potellus, Mercator Parisiensis.

HENRICUS Cauellierius, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

JOANNES Papavonius, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

SIMON Mestreaus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

JOANNES Guenetus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

CLAUDIUS Roquemontius, Eques, Dynastes Brisonii.

ANDREAS Ferru, Mercator Parisiensis.

FRANCISCUS Castillonius.

ANTONIUS Renaltius, Eques, Dynastes Montmorii.

HUGO Cosnerius, Dynastes Bellæ aquæ.

JOANNES Poncetus, in Parisiensi Subsidiarum Curia Senator.

SEBASTIANUS Cramoisy, Typographus Parisiensis.

GULIELMUS Prevotius, Mercator Parisiensis.

GABRIEL Lattagnantius, antiquus Major Calerensis.

- DAVID du Chesne, Consiliarius & Scabinus oppidi Portus Gratiae.
- MICHAEL Joannes, Actor causarum Dieppae.
- NICOLAUS Massonus, Consiliarius Regis & Quaestor Subsidiarum in Electione Montiuilleriensi.
- ISAACUS Razillius, Eques Ordinis S. Joannis Ierosolymitani.
- GASPAR Lopius, Eques, Dynastes Monfanii.
- RENATUS Betholatus, Eques.
- JOANNES Fayotus, Consiliarius Regis, & Quaestor Suessione.
- JOANNES Vincentius, Consiliarius, & Scabinus Dieppensis.
- VIDUA Nicolai Blondelli, Consilarii & Scabini Dieppensis.
- JOANNES Rozaeus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.
- SAMUEL CAMPLENIUS, Eques, ex Nauticis Praefectis.
- NICOLAUS Ellyas, Dynastes Pinus, Praetor Togatus, apud Maunyenses.
- JOANNES Tuffetus, Mercator & Civis Burdegalensis.
- GEORGIUS Morinus, domesticus Ducis Aurelianensis.
- PAULUS Bailly, Consiliarius & Eleemosynarius Regis, Abbas S. Theodorici in Monte Aureo, ad Rhemos.
- LUDOVICUS de la Cour ; arctioris aerarii administer Princeps.
- AETHERIUS Hoberius, Consiliarius Regius, & Quaestor in Provincia.
- SIMON Alix, Consiliarius & Secretarius Regius.
- PETRUS Robinellus, Consiliarius Regius, & Quaestor Equitum levioris armaturae.
- JACOBUS Pagetus, Consiliarius Regius, & Regionum Vectigalium Depositarius ad Montem Desiderii.

- JACOBUS Sage, Consiliarius Regius, & Regionum Vectigalium Depositarius Segusianus,
CAROLUS du Fresne, Secretarius Praefecti Trivenium.
CAROLUS Robinus, Dynastes Corsaii.
CAROLUS Robinus, Consiliarius Regius, & Summus Praefectus aquarum siluarumque, in Turonibus.
THOMAS Bonnellus, Dynastes Plessaei, Consiliarius & Secretarius Regius.
JACOBUS Bonnellus, Dynastes Beluasii.
RADULPHUS Lhuilerius, Mercator Parisiensis.
CAROLUS Fleurialius.
RENATUS Robin, Dynastes Rupis-farioiae.
MATURINUS Bandellus, Civis Parisiensis.
ROBERTUS Godefredus, Consiliarius Regius, & Quaestor Generalis militarium pensationum extraordinariorum.
CLAUDIUS Bragelionus, Consiliarius Regius, Superintendens & Commissarius generalis militaris annonae in Gallia.
JACOBUS Borderius, Consiliarius, & Secretarius Regius.
CLAUDIUS Margohnaeus, Consiliarius Regius, & Depositarius Generalis aerarii, Suessione.
HIERONYMUS a Santonibus, Consiliarius Regius, & Quaestor in Campania.
STEPHANUS Hervaeus, Civis Parisiensis.
JOANNES Verderius, Consiliarius & Secretarius Regius.
BERTRANDUS Campi-florius, Secretarius Ducis Rentensis.
PETRUS Feretus, Secretarius D. Archiepiscopi Parisiensis.

- ANTONIUS Cheffaltius, Actor causarum in suprema
Curià Parisiensi.
- BARTHOLOMAEUS Quantinus, Dynastes Molineti.
- PREGENTIUS Prostius, Civis Parisiensis.
- PETRUS Ryerius, Consiliarius, & Secretarius Regius,
ad rem aerariam.
- JOANNES Potellus, Consiliarius, & Secretarius Regius
in privato Consilio.
- NICOLAUS Vasseurius, Consiliarius Regis, & Depositi-
tarius Regionum Vectigalium Latetiae.
- OCTAVIUS Mey, Civis Lugdunensis.
- BONAVENTURA Quantinus, Dynastes Richeburgi.
- PETRUS Aubertus, Consiliarius, & Secretarius Re-
gius.
- GULIELMUS Martinus, Dynastes Vernadiae, Consilia-
rius Regius.
- AMATUS Sirollus, Consiliarius Regius, & Quaestor
Lutetiae.
- CLAUDIUS Girardinus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.
- SIMON Dablonus, Syndicus Dieppae.
- JOANNES Chiromus, Mercator Burdegalensis.
- JOANNES David, Mercator Bayonensis.
- STEPHANUS Pauillonius, Consiliarius Regius, &
Quaestor militaris Provincialis, in Santonibus.
- JOANNES Pontacus, Civis Parisiensis.
- CLAUDIUS Myraeus, Civis Parisiensis.
- DESIDERIUS Myraeus, Civis Parisiensis.
- PETRUS a Portis, Dynastes Lignerii.
- GUILIELMUS Vernerius, Parisinus domicilio.
- CLAUDIUS Castellanius, Commissarius ad extraordi-
naria militaria.
- JOANNES DE JOUY, Parisinus domicilio.
- PETRUS Fontanus, Dynastes Neuillii.

JOANNES Peleau, Consiliarius & Secretarius Regius,
in Cancellaria Aquitana Audienti arius.

ANTONIUS Nozerellus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

FRANCISCUS Mourelus, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

JACOBUS Duhamelius, Mercator Rhotomagensis.

JACOBUS Dozonus de Bourran, in suprema Curia
Burdegalensi Senator & Inquisitionum ibidem
Praeses.

JOANNES Dozonus de Bourran, in suprema Curia
Burdegalensi Senator, & ibidem in Decuria Sup-
plicum libellorum Praeses.

JACOBUS de la Ferté, Regi a Consilius & Eleemôsynis,
Abbas S^{tae} Magdalenae Castellodunensis.

Ad centum, adjecti septem.

The foregoing record of the names of the 100 Associates is found in "*Historiae Canadensis, seu Nova Franciae*" by Francis du Creux, published at Paris. 1664.



THE ANNUAL MEETING



HE thirty-fifth annual meeting was held in the Château de Ramezay on the 21st of December 1897. After routine business, the Hon. Justice Baby read the following.

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL ADDRESS

Gentlemen,

In presenting my annual report, I feel pleased in informing you that the Society, in whose welfare you take such a deep interest, has entered into an era of

prosperity and progress hitherto unknown to its members. Our ranks have been considerably increased and the debt resulting from, and incidental to, the founding of the Château de Ramezay Institution, has been notably reduced, through the generosity and patriotism of several gentlemen of this city, desirous of giving the Society a helping hand in our strenuous efforts to endow the metropolis of Canada with an important establishment, having in view the triple objects of a Canadian museum, historical picture gallery, and public library.

Many dreaded that the enterprise, worthy as it might be, would be far beyond the means at our command, and that it would become a stumbling-block, as it were, to the legitimate aspirations and advancement of our Society, but such fears, I am glad to say, have been removed.

By the different special reports to be submitted to you, this evening, you will have, in detail, the work performed during the year, in the different departments of the institution, and you cannot help being most impressively struck, with the untiring exertions made by your Executive in furtherance of the aims of the Society.

Well knowing that the welfare of the Society depends entirely on the healthy state of its finances, considerable attention was given to the same, and your Executive have, so far, as in them, lay, endeavoured to curtail to the utmost the expenditure, allowing disbursements only for what was strictly needful. Having no source of revenue but that derived from the annual subscriptions of our members — and what

generously disposed citizens had been prevailed upon to assist us with — we necessarily have to economise, although considerably curtailed in our work, if we wish to give to our finances that proper tone which inspires confidence in the stability and prosperity of the Society. With this view, several gentlemen, well known in our commercial circle have been prevailed upon and have consented to become *Life Governors*. Others have promised to join, so that shortly our Society will be on a sound basis. So far, our debt has been notably reduced, and every thing tends to show that at an early date, the institution will be entirely free of all encumbrances and self supporting.

I may state here that the membership has very considerably increased, and now stands as follows:—

Ordinary members	300
Life	10
Life governors	14
	<hr/>
Making a total of	324

During the year, 168 gentlemen were added to our body; we have to record two deaths,—one, Mr. Alain McDonald, regretted by all. This gentleman, so unexpectedly carried away from our midst, had held the office of Secretary to the Society, and, through his zeal, had rendered most valuable services. His death was certainly a great loss to us all.

Allow me now to call your attention to the additions made, since my last report, in the three branches of our institution.

In the first place, 800 books and 200 pamphlets,

for the most part on Canadian subjects, have been added to the library.

In this connection, I have much pleasure in stating, that, through the exertions and liberality of Judge Sicotte, we have obtained the Duvernay correspondence which contains invaluable information relating to the political troubles of 1837.

Many other important manuscripts, papers and documents have found their resting place within our walls, while others have been promised in the early future.

This branch will become before long, a mine for the intelligent exploration of the scholar and student of Canadian history.

The picture gallery has been enriched by eight oil portraits and twenty engravings of distinguished Canadians, of many paintings, drawings and photographs of Canadian subjects, scenery, buildings, &c., &c. Our walls are now decorated by no less than 60 oil paintings of large size, 5 pastels and drawings, 55 engravings and photographs, portraits alone, besides 28 Canadian paintings and drawings, and 82 engravings of Canadian scenery, buildings, &c. The total, under this head, is now 370, very few of which are not connected with Canada.

The museum of Canadian antiquities and historical souvenirs has also been very much enlarged.

The donors in all these branches, have been no less than ninety.

Among these, allow me to mention, for your most sincere thanks, in order of date :—

Prince Roland Bonaparte, of Paris, for the very

valuable collection of books, for the most part books on voyages and travels, both ancient and modern, selected from his own splendid library ;

The Marquis de Lévis, also of Paris, for a finely executed oil portrait of his ancestor, the "Maréchal," the victor of Ste. Foye ;

Mr. Morgan, of Montreal, for that of General Wolfe, the Hero of the Plains of Abraham ;

Sir John Evans, of England, for his donation of silver Roman Coins ;

The Grand Duke Surgii, of Russia, for the large silver coronation medal of the present occupants of the Imperial throne ;

The Rajah Sultan of Johore, with an autograph letter, a collection of native coins, some of which are exceedingly rare ;

Mr. Errol Bouchette, for the original Bouchette charts and maps.

Evidently there has been no flagging in the interest shown by the public, from the very beginning, for the Château de Ramezay. This is not only found in, and exemplified by, the numerous donations made to its museum, picture gallery and library, but also in the very large and increasing number of visitors who, daily, pass through our halls. Many of them, persons of distinction and learning, by letters to the President or otherwise, have spontaneously given expression to their delight and astonishment at the good work carried on here and accomplished in so short a time, urging us strongly not to relax in our patriotic exertions, an advice that we are encouraged to accept and follow.

The visitors, during the year, have attained the average of 2,500 monthly. In the summer months, when tourists are most numerous in the city, our rooms are sometimes crowded. Many educational institutions bring their pupils here, giving them thereby the best lessons in Canadian history which can be imparted to them, making these young people acquainted with the leading men of our past, and, incidentally, with their chivalrous and patriotic careers.

Our correspondence with other bodies, scientific, literary or otherwise, has been considerably extended, and that with the most happy results. No less than 135 European and American Societies have sent us or have promised to send at any early date, their memoirs, periodicals and transactions. Very important works have thus been added to what we already possessed.

The course of lectures, opened last year, was very successfully continued, and attended, I am happy to state, by most select and appreciative audiences,

Messrs. Benjamin Sulte, Penhallow, Fréchette, Gregor and Durnford are entitled to our most sincere thanks in this respect.

Our journal, "The Antiquarian," I am happy to inform you, has been revived and will continue, as it was formerly, to be the exponent of the proceedings of our Society.

I cannot close this report without bringing to your memory two noteworthy transactions of the past year.

In the first place, let me allude to the Nansen reception given by the Society in November last.

This reception will be remembered by the inhabitants of Montreal, as one of the most notable social events which have taken place. About a thousand of Montreal's most important citizens thronged these halls, and the Society neglected nothing to make the occasion one of which, both guest and host, might well be proud. It becomes me to remark that, thanks to the well-known liberality of one of our Vice-Presidents, H. J. Tiffin, a jewel was presented to the celebrated traveller and discoverer, as a souvenir of his welcome visit to the Château de Ramezay.

The general public seemed to have duly appreciated the invitation tendered by the Society to Dr. Nansen.

Secondly, this report would not be complete, were I not to mention our most delightful excursion, on the 24th of May last, to the Fort Carillon. A perfect success, it is admitted on all sides, crowned the efforts of the Special Committee appointed to make arrangements for the visit to that far-famed historical spot. Blessed with Queen's weather the trip was carried out under the most favorable auspices and all who took part in it, on their return, were loud in their expressions of admiration for the day, and what had been arranged for them.

On the whole, allow me to say that the Society, as you can see from the foregoing statements, has reason to be proud of the success it has attained so far, and I hope most sincerely that the noble work on which we have so disinterestedly entered will receive, at the hands of the citizens of Montreal, that generous support to which we are entitled.

Mr. Emanuel Ohlen then read

THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

During the past year, I entered into correspondance with foreign Academies and kindred societies with the view of exchanging publications and thereby increasing the library of the Society.

I am pleased to report that the Society's name is now on the exchange list of 135 societies. The names of these societies are given in the following list. From these were received during 1897 some 633 publications, 3 medals and 16 coins. Some 43 academies and societies have promised to send their publications, as soon as the Château medal is sent to them. The Society is now exchanging publications with similar institutions in 28 different countries.

I was fortunate to obtain, among other donations to the Château this year, the Russian Coronation Medal in silver, from His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrowitch, and the princely gift of rare Asiatic coins from Hon. Dato. J. Meldrum, Sultanate of Johore, Straits Settlements.

During the year 208 official letters have been written, as per copy book, besides circulars, &c. At the same time, 96 official communications were received, which are on file.

The expenses of my department for the year was \$16.19.

EMANUEL ÖHLÉN,

Corresponding Secretary.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Budapest K. ungarische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2 ; Budapest Archeological Academy, 6 ; Cracovie, L'Académie des Sciences de Cracovie, 16 ; Linz, Museum Francisco-Carolinum, 3 ; Wien, K. k. Central-Commission für kunst-und Hist. Denkmale, 24 ; Wien, Numismatische Gesellschaft, 7 ; Prag, K. böhmische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften ; Spalato, K. k. Archaeologisches Museum, 105. Total, 163.

BELGIUM

Anvers, Académie Royale d'Archéologie ; Bruxelles, Société d'Archéologie ; Bruxelles, Société Royale de Numismatique de Belgique, 2 ; Liège, Institut Archéologique Liégeois. Total, 2.

BULGARIA

Sofia, His Royal Highness The Prince of Bulgaria.

DENMARK

Copenhagen, Kongel. Danske Videnskabernes Selskab ; Copenhagen, K. Oldskriftselskabet.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

London, Numismatic Society, 22 Albermale St, 3 ; London, Royal Historical Society, 115 St. Martin's Lane ; London, St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society ; London, Anthropological Institute of Great Britain & Ireland ; London, Royal Geographical Society ; Aberdeen, New Spalding Club ; Dublin, Royal Irish Academy ; Edinburgh, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland ; Glasgow, Glasgow Archaeological Society. Total, 3.

FRANCE

Romans, Bulletin d'histoire ecclésiastique et d'archéologie religieuse ; St-Brieux, Société d'Emulation des Côtes-du-Nord, 1 ; Saint-Omer, Société des Antiquaires de la Morinie, 3 ; Nancy, Société d'Archéologie Lorraine, 1 ; Besançon, Académie des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts, 1 ; Montpellier, Société Archéologique, 5 ; Dijon, Commission des Antiquités du département de la Côte d'Or, 1 ; Poitiers, Société des Antiquaires de l'Ouest ; Bayeux, Société d'agriculture, des Sciences, Arts et Belles-Lettres ; Paris, Ministère de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts, 28 ; Paris, Institut de France ; Châteaudun, Société Dunoise, 1 ; Amiens, Société des Antiquaires de Picardie, 13 ; Avranches, Société d'Archéologie, 1 ; Constantine, Société Archéologique du département de Constantine, 1. Total, 56.

FINLAND

Abo, Bestyrelsen för Abo Stads Historiska Museum, 4 ; Helsingfors, Finska Fornminnes-föreningen, 4. Total, 8.

GERMANY

Dresden Verein für kirchliche kunst im Königreich Sachsen, 5 ; München, K. B. Akademie der Wissenschaften ; Königsberg, Physikalisch-Oekonomische Gesellschaft, 1 ; Wiesbaden, Verein für Nassauische Altertumskunde und Geschichts f., 1 ; Leipzig, K. Sachsische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften ; Stuttgart, Württemberg, Altertums-Verein, 12 ; Stettin, Gesellschaft für Pommersche Geschichte und Alterth.

Nurnberg, Germanisches National Museum ; Freiburg in B., Kirchlich-historischer Verein für die Erzdiocese Freiburg ; Breslau, Museum Schlesischer, Altertumer, 9 ; Dresden, K. Sachsischer Alterthumverein, 2 ; Karlsruhe, Grosh. hof und Landes bibliothek, 2 ; Munchen, Deutsche Anthropologische Gesellschaft, 31 ; Hannover, Historischer verein für Niedersachsen ; Altenburg, Geschichts und Alterthums forschende Ges. des Ost. ; Karlsruhe, Badische historische Commission. Total, 63.

ITALY

Rome, Kaiserlich Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut ; Napoli, Reale Accademia di Archaeologia, Lettere e Belle Arti ; Napoli, Società Africana d'Italia, 6 ; Palermo, Reale Accademia di Scienze, Lettere e Belle Arti, 8. Total, 14.

MONACO

Monaco, His Royal Highness the Prince of Monaco.

MONTENEGRO

Cettinje, His Royal Highness the Prince of Montenegro.

NETHERLANDS

Utrecht, Historisch Genootschap ; Haarlem, Nederlandsche Maatschappj ter Bevordering van Nijverh., 11 ; Haarlem, Musée Teyler, 12. Total, 23.

NORWAY

Tromso, Tromso Museum, 2 ; Throndhjem, Det Kgl. Norske Videnskabers Selskab, 2 ; Bergen, Ber-

gens Museums Bibliothek, 1 ; Christiania, Foreningen til Norske Fortids mindesmerkers Bevar ; Christiania, Prof. Dr. Gustaf Storm. Total, 5.

ROUMANIA

Bukarest, Academia Romana, 14.

SPAIN

Madrid, Real Acaademia de la Historia, 1.

RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Commission Impériale Archéologique, 3 ; Miao, Kurlandische Gesellschaft für Literatur und Kunst, 1 ; Moscow, Société Impériale Archéologique, 40 ; Riga, Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Alterthumskunde des Ost, 2 ; Moscow, His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrowitch, 48.

SWEDEN

Stockholm, N. E. Hammarstedt Amanuens vid Nordiska Museet, 1 ; Stockholm, Nordiska Museet, 26 ; Stockholm, Kongl Vitterhets Historie och Antiquitets Akademien, 67 ; Stockholm, Dr. Anton Blomberg ; Stockholm, Riksantikvarien H. O. H. Hildebrand ; Stockholm, Prof. A. E. Nordenskjöld ; Stockholm, Kongl. Vetenskaps Akademien ; Stockholm, Kongl. Geografiska Sällskapet ; Upsala, Kongl. Vetenskapssocieteten ; Gothenburg, Société Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres, 1. Total, 95.

SWITZERLAND

Luzern, Historischer Verein der V. orte, 1 ; Genève, Société Suisse de Numismatique, 2 ; Genève, Institut National Genevois. Total, 3.

SAN MARINO

San Marino, The President of the Republic of San Marino.

TURKEY

Constantinople, Société Philologique Grecque, 2.

UNITED STATES

Portland, Maine Genealogical Society, 1 ; New York, American Geographical and Statistical Society ; Philadelphia, Museum of Science and Art. University of Pennsylvania, 1 ; Chicago, Field Columbian Museum ; Cambridge, Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology ; Boston, New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 5 ; Madison, The State Historical Society, 1 ; Washington, Anthropological Society of Washington, 9 ; New York, American Museum of National History ; Washington, Smithsonian Institute, 25 ; Baltimore, Archaeological Institute of America ; New York, American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, 2 ; Chicago, American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal, 1 ; Philadelphia, Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, 24 ; Philadelphia, Academy Natural Science, 1 ; Utica, Oneida Historical Society, 1 ; Washington, The Catholic University of Washington, 4 ; Milwaukee, Public Museum, 1 ; New York, A. Woodward, Ph. D. Librarian Natural Hist. Museum ; Worcester, American Antiquarian Society, 1 ; Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2 ; Boston Public Library, 2. Total, 81.

CANADA

Winnipeg, Manitoba Historical and Scientific So-

ciety ; Ottawa, Royal Society of Canada, 1 ; Montreal, Natural History Society, 4 ; Toronto, Canadian Bookseller and Library Journal, 13 ; Windsor, N. S., Kings College, 2 ; Halifax, Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science, 2 ; Ottawa, Canadian Patent Office, 12 ; Ottawa, Dominion Statistician, 2. Total, 43.

MEXICO

Mexico, Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, 1.

SOUTH AMERICA

La Platta, Museo de La Plata, 4 ; Rio de Janeiro, Instituto Historio, 4. Total, 8.

COSTA RICA

San José, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, Royal Geographical Society of Australia.

Total number of periodicals received, 633.

A special vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Ohlen for bringing the Society into communication with so many foreign Archeological Societies.



The curator's report, giving a detailed list of donations to the Museum, National Gallery and Library during the year 1897, will appear in the next number.



UN NOM BIEN CHOISI

PAR M. LE JUGE BABY



UR le versant méridional du Mont-Royal, s'élève une habitation qui, entre autres, par ses larges proportions architecturales, le bon goût et l'imposant de sa façade, frappe le regard. De suite, l'on voit que cette construction ne date pas d'hier, mais, au contraire, qu'elle appartient à un tout autre temps. En effet, voilà le château que l'honorable Louis Charles Foucher, autrefois député pour Montréal, solliciteur général et puis juge de la Cour du Banc de la Reine, fit construire vers 1820. Il l'occupa peu après, et y demeura jusqu'à sa mort arrivée en 1829. Aujourd'hui, cette propriété est passée aux mains de M. J. H. R. Molson (1) qui, nous l'espérons, ne voudra pas céder aux idées modernes et permettre au marteau du démolisseur de faire disparaître du pied de la montagne ce dernier vestige d'une architecture si simple et en même temps si belle, Il y déjà bien des années hélas ! que son rival le "Château McTavish," fut renversé pour être remplacé par une maison qui ressemble à toutes les autres maisons de la même classe, sans compter le "Fort des Messieurs" qui lui non plus n'a pu trouver grâce aux yeux des novateurs. Oui, souhaitons que "Piedmont," au moins, nous reste le plus longtemps possible. Nous connaissons assez le propriétaire actuel pour nous permettre de croire que

(1) Cet insigne bienfaiteur de l'Université McGill était alors vivant mais il est décédé au cours de l'an dernier, laissant Madame Molson, née Frothingham, pour continuer ses grandes oeuvres de philanthropie dans Montréal.

nos vœux seront exaucés et que d'ici à bien longtemps encore les habitants de notre grande et belle cité pourront jouir de la vue de son imposante demeure. Nous l'avons dit, elle porte pour nom, celui si caractéristique et si bien trouvé de "Piedmont." Qui le lui a donné ? Nul autre que le grand évêque Plessis, l'ami intime de M. le juge Foucher. Nos lecteurs nous sauront gré, nous n'en doutons pas, de leur mettre sous les yeux les pièces suivantes qui le constatent.

"Monsieur,

Il ne m'est pas permis de laisser partir M. Heney (1) sans en prendre occasion de me rappeler à votre souvenir. Vous avez eu la bonté de me dire et de lui écrire que vous désiriez que je donnasse mon avis sur le nom qu'il convenait de faire porter à votre maison de campagne. Si j'avais pu le faire sans blesser les règles de la modestie, je vous aurais offert *Canathe*, nom de mon premier évêché. A défaut de celui-là qui n'a aucun rapport à la place, j'ai proposé *Beauchamp* par allusion aux belles campagnes qui vous environnent. Enfin, si vous voulez exprimer votre position au pied de la montagne, on pourrait proposer *Piedmont*, nom qui a été donné à la principauté de Sa Majesté Sardé, à raison de sa situation au pied des Alpes. A vous le choix final, comme de raison. A moi l'honneur de me souscrire avec estime et respect,

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

† J. O. EVEQUE DE QUEBEC.

Québec, 6 mars 1821.

L'honorable L. Chs Foucher, Ecuier, etc."

(1) L'honorable Hugues Heney, conseiller législatif et gendre de M. le juge Foucher.

“ Monseigneur,

Je suis inexcusable et dois m'avouer tel pour n'avoir pas encore répondu à Votre Grandeur. Mais je le serais encore bien plus si le *courrier* qui m'a apporté l'honneur de votre lettre, en mars dernier, et qui se fera un devoir de vous saluer ne vous présentait pas enfin mes excuses et mes plus respectueux remerciements.

Je vous dois beaucoup de reconnaissance, monseigneur, de la bonté que vous m'avez témoignée en vous occupant de donner un nom à ma maison. Votre générosité à cet égard ne m'a laissé que l'embarras du choix !

J'aurais bien désiré prendre le nom de *Canathe*, mais j'ai fait réflexion qu'il ne me convenait pas de décorer mon habitation de ce nom respectable que vous avez rendu catholique en le portant. Je craindrais qu'en me l'appropriant, il ne redevint encore *in partibus infidelium*.

En renonçant à prendre ce nom qui m'aurait le plus flatté, l'autre nom que vous avez bien voulu suggérer m'a paru mieux convenir ; il aura d'ailleurs toujours son prix puisqu'il vient également de Votre Grandeur et il me laisse encore, de plus, le flatteur espoir que quand nous aurons l'honneur de vous voir à Montréal vous ne dédaignerez pas de venir visiter votre filleule *Piedmont*.

Permettez-moi, Monseigneur, à la fin de cette année et au renouvellement de celle que nous allons prendre, de vous prier d'agréer mes souhaits pour votre conservation, votre santé et votre bonheur.

J'ai l'honneur de me souscrire avec la plus haute considération et le plus sincère attachement,

Monseigneur,

De Votre Grandeur,

Le très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

L. C. FOUCHER.

Piedmont, 18 décembre 1821."

" Monsieur,

Quoique votre courrier commence à se plaindre du mal de dents, je ne le crois pas encore assez près de son départ pour courir la chance d'un retour qui peut se prolonger.

C'est à moi de vous remercier d'avoir bien voulu recevoir de ma part un nom pour votre maison de campagne. Si je n'eusse craint de blesser votre modestie, j'aurais insisté sur *Foucherville*, mais enfin vous avez agréé *Piedmont* et il est bien là. Puissiez-vous dans ce charmant endroit, vous délasser du tumulte et des embarras de la ville. A notre âge, il faut un peu de repos.

En vous souhaitant toutes sortes de prospérités dans l'année présente, je voudrais en souhaiter aussi à cette province dans laquelle vous occupez un poste si distingué. Malheureusement elle se trouve dans un moment de crise. Des intérêts opposés échauffent les esprits ; chacun évoque la constitution que peu entendent ; les vues privées se revêtent du manteau de l'intérêt public. Il est difficile de calculer les suites de tout ceci. Heureusement la bienfaisante providence veille sur nous et ne nous pas encore abandonnés.

Espérons qu'elle fera tourner à notre avantage nos bévues mêmes.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentiments d'une respectueuse estime,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

† J. O. EVEQUE DE QUEBEC.

Québec, 7 janvier 1822."

L'honorable Ls Chs Foucher, Ecuier, etc.

Après avoir pris connaissance de ces pièces, peut-on ne pas désirer voir se conserver le monument qui en est l'objet.



A POPULAR PREJUDICE



POTATOES were only introduced into Lower Canada shortly after the Cession, by General Christie.

Not later than 1876, the writer, being on circuit, happened to stay at a fairly well-kept inn, in a rather out-of-the-way village in the Province of Quebec, on the sunny sides of the Laurentides, and amongst the guests was, of course, the Judge who was to preside at the Court. This high functionary was fond of a well-cooked dinner, a harmless failing enough. This interesting part of the daily routine being performed, the judge repaired to a room, followed by several learned advocates, who after the judge's example, lit their cigars, and indulged in conversation. His Honor remarked, with considerable

satisfaction, how he had found the menu good, especially at such a distance from genteel civilisation, but, he added, "one thing struck me, for which I cannot find an explanation, there were no potatoes on the table, nor was the fine roasted turkey, stuffed with any, in accordance with the well-known fashion, — potatoes must be common here, — why not have served some? this is really a mystery to me!" Desirous of satisfying his curiosity, I volunteered to find out the reason of the absence of the popular vegetable from the dinner-table, my proposal was agreed to, and with a smile, he thanked me, *par avance*, for trying to solve the problem. I stepped into the dining room, where our hostess was still engaged, and said "You gave us a very good dinner, Madame," and she replied, "If, *M. le Juge* is satisfied, I am a happy woman." I continued, "Yes, we were all astonished at your excellent *cuisine*, but tell me, why did you not serve any potatoes on the table." "Well," answered she, with a look of astonishment, "I did not think it a proper thing to do, as I thought it might have offered an insult to the Judge, it is only *les Irlandais et les pauvres gens* who indulge in eating them."—"You are mistaken" said the Judge, appearing at the door, "I am very fond of them, and also all the *Avocats*, you can serve some at dinner, and at all our meals." Next day, the turkey was delightfully stuffed with the savory vegetable, and large dishfuls of them, properly baked, were placed on the table. It was quite a discovery for Madame, to learn that genteel Frenchmen ate potatoes. This, for a long time, was a popular prejudice amongst the country people in Lower Canada.

THE EARLIEST COINAGE OF THE
WESTERN HEMISPHERE

BY ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL

IT has frequently been asserted that four kinds of money were current among the Aztec predecessors of Spaniards in the Mexican Valley. But this assertion does not rest upon very substantial bases. One alleged species of money consisted of small squares of cotton cloth used in the lesser household purchases. A second was composed of gold dust or nuggets, in transparent quills. The third consisted of grains of cacao, — differing somewhat from the cacao of which chocolate was and is made. A fourth is barely mentioned by Cortes, and very vaguely described by other authors, as either a T shaped piece of tin, or a disk stamped with a T shaped design. Barter rather than buying and selling was the practice of the Aztec markets and the first three species of alleged money above referred to, were probably objects of barter and not money in the sense in which we use that word. As to the fourth, there is a suspicion that certain T shaped pieces of metal (tin, copper or copper alloyed with tin,) observed by the Conquistadores, were household or agricultural implements in general demand and hence much used in barter. In point of fact, what is now known regarding the social organization of the Aztecs is opposed to the idea of the existence among them of anything in the way of money as we understand that term.

Cortes is said by some of the earlier chroniclers to have coined a quantity of money during his administration of public affairs in Mexico, which was previous to the year 1526. But the notices of such a coinage are vague and unreliable. It is known, however, that shortly after the conquest, an assay office was established in the City of Mexico, and silver bars bearing the stamp of that office circulated in lieu of coin. The inconvenience resulting from resort to to such a circulating medium as this; the scarcity of Spanish coins; and above all, the difficulty of determining and regulating the value of the various coins brought by the Conquistadores from Spain, (doubloons, castellanos, ducats, doblos, shields or crowns, and blancas,) led to an appeal to the Emperor for the establishment of a mint in Mexico. The appeal was answered by an Imperial order, dated May 11, 1535, appointing three mints, in Bogota, New Granada and Mexico, respectively, and directing the coinage of silver pieces of the value of one, two and three reales, and a medio, or one half of a real.

The instructions regarding the devices for these coins were explicit, but seem not to have been very accurately followed. It has been determined that the first coins under this Imperial order were made in Mexico early in 1537. So that the coinage of Mexico ante-dates the landing of the "Mayflower" on the rock bound coast of New England, by nearly a century, and hence still further ante-dates any other coinage in the North American continent.

The specimens now extant of this early coinage are naturally much worn and give evidence of the

crudest workmanship. The larger coins were intended to copy the general device of the Spanish coins of that date and were to be distinguished from them by the letter M. They were to bear the quartered shield with the castle and lions; the two columns of Hercules, with the letters PLUS ULTRA across them, the device of the Emperor, (which finally led to the (\$) dollar mark of our currency); and the letters around the coin CAROLUS E YOANA REGES HISPANIE & YNDIARUM. In the working up of the device, however, the "Plus Ultra" became sadly deranged and appeared thus:—PLV | SVL | TR, and the other letters came out as:—CAROLVS — ET — IOHANA — REGIS — HISPAN- IARVM — ET — INDIARVN †.

The *real* pieces were to be marked with a "K" and an "I" on one side and the columnar device on the other, and the *medios* were to bear the "K" on one side and the "I" on the other. This is curious, because the Spanish alphabet has no letter K. Charles I of Spain was Charles V, of Germany, and this adoption of the initial of his German name, "Karl," instead of the Spanish name "Carlos" is in line with his well-known failure to identify himself with the interests of his Spanish subjects.

It was not long before it was discovered that the two *real* and three *real* pieces were so nearly the same size as not to be readily distinguishable. This led to the suppression of the three *real* pieces and the coining of four *real* pieces; and in pursuance of an Imperial order of November 1537, the coining of eight *real* pieces was begun about February or March 1538.

The same general design was adopted for these latter coins, and the coins then produced at the mint in Mexico received the following popular names : Peso, — eight reales, furnishing the standard of 100 for the future adoption of the decimal system.

Toston, — four reales or half dollar.

Peseta, — two reales or a quarter of a dollar, (literally "little peso.")

Real, and

Medio, — half of a real.

These coins circulated largely in Spain as well as in Mexico. The mints in Bogota and New Granada began their operations much later.

About the same time a copper coinage was foisted upon the Mexicans by the local government, and proved very unpopular among the natives, whose financial dealings were mostly in the smallest coins. With them copper never had any monetary value before, so they claimed, (and this seems corroborative of the statement that the T shaped copper plates already referred to, were not money,) and was not reckoned as precious metal. They would not accept it in lieu of silver. The new copper coin represented a quarter of a real and was called a cuartillo. The Indians threw into the lakes all the copper coins they received in change, and though such a course was their loss and the gain of the government, yet the Viceroy, (it was Don Antonio de Mendoza, the first, and one of the best of the Viceroys,) wisely forebore to force a coinage upon them against their will, and substituted for it a very small silver cuartillo. But

this coin was so small as to be easily lost and hence was as unpopular as the copper *cuartillo*. The result was that the Indians resorted to the use of cacao for small transactions. There may be a philological connection between this resort to cacao and the name "*tlaco*" given to a copper coin of the value of a fraction of a real, subsequently coined in the various States of Mexico. Until the present century cacao continued in use among the native races of Mexico as wampum was used among the Indians of the north.

It only remains to be said that this early coinage was the forerunner of regular yearly issues of Spanish American silver coins, some of them still in circulation in Mexico; and that in its earliest days it furnished an opportunity for counterfeiting, of which the Indians availed themselves. And Mendoza's reports to the Emperor enclosed several examples of counterfeit *tostones*.



LE VANDALISME



son avant dernière séance, la Société de Numismatique et d'Archéologie de Montréal a passé la résolution suivante.

En 1888 ou 89, des *progressistes* de Rome, afin de lui donner un air ou regain de jeunesse — exactement comme à Québec — résolurent de faire jeter un pont entre le Capitole et le Palatin, afin de rendre la circulation plus facile, disait-on !

A cette nouvelle, tout le monde savant de Rome, les archéologues, les historiens, les antiquaires, les tou-

ristes, etc. s'émurent et se mirent en frais de voir s'il n'y avait point moyen de pare: à l'acte de vandalisme qui était en voie de s'accomplir.

Dans une assemblée publique, convoquée dans ce but, et où se trouvaient réunis un grand nombre de personnages importants, Lord Dufferin, notre ancien gouverneur général, alors ambassadeur d'Angleterre, s'adressant aux Romains, leur tint ce langage : " Vous " oubliez que Rome n'est pas entièrement à vous, " cette ville appartient pour ainsi dire au monde civi- " lisé tout entier ; tous les peuples y ont apporté leurs " offrandes, lui ont imprimé un cachet tout particulier " de poésie que vous ne sauriez lui enlever sans leur " permission ; ils ont droit d'être consultés sur l'à pro- " pos de faire de cette cité exceptionnelle une ville " comme le sont toutes les autres, et la chose que l'on " se propose de faire exécuter révolte le monde civi- " lisé jusqu'au plus profond de ses entrailles." !!!

C'est grand dommage que quelqu'un n'ait pas tenu ce langage énergique aux édiles de notre capitale provinciale. Il aurait eu le même effet qu'à Rome, peut-être, car là, le projet des *modernisateurs* tomba à l'eau, en présence des nombreuses manifestations inspirées par le bon sens.



THE LADIES' BRANCH OF THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY AND THE HISTORICAL BALL



FOR many weeks Montreal Society was in a state of pleased expectancy for an event of more than ordinary interest. January 18th was the date fixed for the fulfilment of so many hopes and the result gave the most complete satisfaction.

When the Ladies' Branch of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society first decided to hold a Historical and Costume Ball it was supposed that the Château de Ramezay could be made to accommodate the guests, but subsequently it was deemed wiser that the entertainment should be given in the great hall of the Windsor Hotel. While to some extent this change caused a loss of local association, it was undoubtedly a gain in other respects, but the traditions of the Château and its occupants in the past were still the influences which brought romance and realism into effective harmony.

The ball was, in fact, "designed with a hope of creating in the citizens of Montreal, a personal interest in their valuable legacy from the past, the Château de Ramezay, and with a desire to revive for one night the château's traditions passed on from the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth by a long and illustrious line of French and English governors." Canada had, indeed, a history, and a pretty stirring history, before the now

venerable Château began its changeful career. Nor, in the midst of grave cares of state, of perils of war and the devout toils of missionaries and religieuses, were the joyous sounds of dance and song entirely absent.

The fifteen bold French explorers who erected the fabric of civilization on the site that was afterwards to bear the name of an English Queen did not forget, amid the dangers and hard ships of the wilderness, to make merry over their lot. The story of the "Ordre du Bon Temps," — which Mr. William McLennan has worthily celebrated — has come down to us as pleasantly characteristic of the spirit of the founders of the colony.

Charming is the picture of that gay company, every member of which had earned his right to enjoyment, by arduous undertakings dutifully performed. That "order" of the far-off time — nearly three century ago — when under Henry IV, Champlain and his brave comrades, had begun to plant the seed of which the far-extending fruit is ours today, was an emblematic lesson for the generations to come and has significance even for us of the present. For there and then, every one had his task assigned and he did it just as cheerfully and as carefully when he had to hunt or fish or cook or serve at table, as when, in his turn, he presided as grand master at the feast.

It was not, however, for a considerable time after Champlain had finished his work in the world and his colleagues had passed from the stage of life, that the little community of New France had its first real ball.

Under the month of February, 1667 — just 231 years ago — we find this entry in the "Journal des Jésuites": "Le 4, le premier bal du Canada s'est fait chez le Sieur Chartier. Dieu vielle que cela ne tire pas en conséquence."

It was not till nearly a generation had gone by that the excesses of fashionable gaiety, of which the good Father deemed M. Chartier's new departure to be the prelude, began to disclose themselves.

They were connected, in some wise, with the rival parties of the time—for there were parties even in the good old times — at the head of one of which stood Governor Count Frontenac. The winter of 1694 is especially noted by our historians for a reign of gaiety of which the clergy, and especially the bishop, were far from approving. It was then that some plays were acted at the Château St. Louis, as to the nature and also as to the purpose of which there was a good deal of controversy. Like all excitements this one of the reign of Frontenac passed away, as he soon did himself, and the busy and eventful century to which he belonged.

The first year of the 18th century was distinguished in Montreal by a great concourse of Indians of whom Konsharonk (Le Rat) was the most imposing figure. The governor at that time was M. des Cailières, whose name was long given to the part of Montreal that is now covered by the Custom House. The city was of limited area, the bulk of it lying between St. Gabriel and St. Peter streets, on the one hand, and between St. James street and the river on the other.

The fortifications, of which a humble, but indispensable love preserves the memory, were only beginning to be thought of. The Seminary had almost its actual area; the Hôtel-Dieu was on the opposite side of St. Joseph (St. Sulpice) street. Of the city within the limits mentioned the most solid portion lay between Notre Dame and St. Paul (inclusive).

The parent society of the Women's Antiquarian Society has made it happily possible to imagine with topographical accuracy the main features of the city as it was when M. de Ramezay undertook to erect the structure that bears his name. Between Notre-Dame and the river there is still ample scope for study of the domestic architecture that prevailed in the old city. Some of these ancient houses have (more or less conjectural) histories; all bear witness to the social milieu of the builders and first tenants of them.

Whoever of our readers may be alive in 1905 will probably witness the celebration of the bi-centennial of Claude de Ramezay's Château. Who Claude de Ramezay was, our readers need hardly be told. At an earlier function of the Women's Antiquarian Society Mrs. Logan told the story of the man and the house. His name is evidence of that closeness of intimacy between the French and Scottish races, which became more pronounced by the inter-marriage of the Guises and Stuarts, but ante-dated even the years of Mary and her Marys.

Of Scottish descent assuredly Claude was, but we know him as one of those French gentlemen-adven-

turers to whom Canada was indebted for much of what is most striking in her annals. Of noble birth, a soldier of approved prowess, he had also some gifts of administration, which led to his being chosen as military governor of the city.

A good deal might be written about his rule in his castle when old Louis the Great was gradually taking leave of the pomps and vanities. But far more realistic than any written record could be is the suggestion of the days that are gone by those who have skill to picture forth by dress and manner the form and image of the time.

Let us hasten forward, therefore, over the years that separate Claude de Ramezay's governorship from the advent of Amherst. Meanwhile, the Château, reared so firmly on foundation meant, one would say, to be imperishable, had been in the service of high commerce and doubtless also high finance. As the India House, Mr. Charles Lamb has told its glories and its pains. To the latter category, we may ascribe the sudden withdrawal of Mr. Cramahé.

In what followed his too hasty retreat Montreal is not a little interested, for there, under the auspices of Benjamin Franklin took place certain discussions which ended, indirectly, in the birth of its first newspaper, "The Gazette." Nearly a century and a quarter of varied history lie between the visit of those illustrious strangers (to whom Montreal gladly bade God-speed) and the gala night that is to turn over a new and most pictorial leaf in the château's annals, we can barely allude to.

The list of viceregal residents is closed by a name that stands for as much modest heroism and fidelity to duty as was ever evinced by any servant of England's crown — the kindly, long suffering, honorable, if sometimes mistaken, Metcalfe.

How, after serving for Government offices, court-rooms, college classrooms, and other uses, the Château de Ramezay became a central treasury of Montreal's archaeological lore, is part of the history of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, of which the Hon. Justice Baby is the esteemed president. A couple of years ago certain ladies of antiquarian tastes had the happy thought of forming a woman's Antiquarian Society and the thought in due time was realized. Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen is the honorary president.

It was not necessary nor even needful that a very elaborate scheme of decoration should be given to the Windsor Hall. In itself the place is a beautiful room but the decorations that were put up for the ball but added to that beauty.

The Decoration Committee, who were in charge of this portion of the ball's arrangements, must certainly be congratulated upon the results of their work for, taking it as a whole, it was appropriate and effective.

The air and idea of the historical ball was everywhere apparent, even if the portraits of the old governors did seem a trifle out of place on the walls of the hall. Looking at it from any point one might, however, it was certainly a handsome setting for an exquisite picture.

Some very good pieces of tapestry were displayed and at each window was a historical portrait, a picture of some of the governors of Canada, brought up from the Château's Portrait Gallery for the occasion. It all made a very handsome tout-ensemble and the sight when the ball was in progress was one of the most beautiful imaginable. Indeed it was an event in the social history of Canada that will not soon be forgotten.

The costumes were as correct and complete as study and pains could make them, and a more perfect picture could hardly be imagined and looking at them, either individually or as a whole, were very handsome, some were really magnificent and certainly as varied and as beautiful a scene was never contained within the Windsor's walls. The historical ball was awaited with the greatest expectations and it more than fulfilled all of them and it will remain in the memory of Montreal society as one of the most charming events in her history.

The presence of His Excellency the Governor General and the Countess of Aberdeen added to the enjoyment of the evening, and the hearty interest they showed in the event cannot be too highly praised.

When their Excellencies and party were ready to proceed to the ball room, the fact became known by two shrill blasts from the trumpeters, two buglers of the Royal Scots clad in complete herald uniform. Their Excellencies passed through the assembled guests and at once took up their position on the dais.

Upon this the ladies and gentlemen of the different groups were each in turn presented, an interesting and pretty ceremony and one which took some time to complete. Upon the conclusion of this, the dancing was begun.



THE CANADIAN COINAGE FOR 1897

The only coins struck, at the Royal Mint, for Canada, in 1897, were the one cent piece in bronze and the five and ten cent pieces in silver. This coinage was an unusually late one, for the bulk of it did not arrived in Montreal until February, 1898. As there is a redundancy of silver coins in Canada there as been no coinage of half dollars for some years. And, although some sections of the country call for new twenty-five cent pieces, the government, at the request of the banks, has determined to issue no more of this coin until such times as the large quantity of silver lying in their vaults shall have been put into circulation.

It had been hoped that during the Jubilee year a new design would have been adopted but, notwithstanding that a number of suggestion to this effect have been made, there has been no change during the thirty years Canada has had a coinage of its own; while at the same time two changes in design have followed each other in the coinage of the mother country.

