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THE  
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN

AND  
NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

EDITED BY A COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
Numismatic and Antiquarian Society  
OF MONTREAL.



Published by MONONGAHELA de BEAUJEU

VOLUME III.

SECOND SERIES, JANUARY 1892 <sup>EN</sup> November, 1892, Nos. 1-47



MONTREAL :  
DESAULNIERS & Co., 22 St. Gabriel St., Printers.

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Address subscriptions and correspondence for the CANADIAN  
ANTIQUARIAN and NUMISMATIC JOURNAL to MUNONGABÉLA DE  
BEAUJEU, Proprietor, 32 University Street, Montreal.

THE  
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN  
— AND —  
NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

THIRD SERIES

*Jan., 1892*  
~~April, 1892~~

NO. 1.

THE "BEAVER CURRENCY" TOKENS OF THE  
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

By R. W. McLACHLAN.



ABOUT eight years ago, there came into the possession of a young collector a coin that had hitherto remained unknown to Canadian Numismatists. The obverse of this coin bore the arms of the Hudson's Bay Company within a wreath of oak leaves, while on the reverse were inscribed the letters HB | E M |  $\frac{1}{2}$  | N B, in four lines. Although enquiries were made at the Montreal, London and Winnipeg offices of the Company, no information could be elicited as to the meaning of these letters, the purpose of the token, or when it was struck; nor could the officers tell whether any more were to be found in the forts or trading-posts of the Company. Various conjectures, more or less incorrect, were made in attempting to arrive at the meaning of the inscription.

The fortunate possessor of this coin knew how to appreciate its rarity, and thus turn an honest penny, for he sold it to a more advanced numismatist for one hundred and twenty-five dollars, an

extraordinary and unprecedented price for a Canadian copper coin. This price was considered by other collectors to be much beyond its

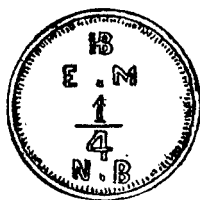


value; for while they were as desirous of securing a specimen for their collections, they did not despair, believing that somewhere in the "Great Lone Land" a hoard would some day be discovered, and that there were other values besides the one already known. Letters were written to the factors in the North-West, and search instituted, but for a time nothing could be discovered.

Two years afterwards this search proved successful, and the expectations realized, for one day a collector, who had dealings with the Company, exhibited to his friends, not simply a duplicate of the coin first discovered, but three others—companion pieces—similar in design, differing only in size and the numeral indicating the value. These were one, one-quarter and one-eighth. Of each of these four denominations two specimens were shown. Although the duplicate set was offered at a reasonable price, compared with that paid for the first specimen, no sale could be effected. The impression that other discoveries would soon be made had still farther depressed the value.

During the summer of 1888 this impression was confirmed, for two members of the Geological and Natural History Survey, Messrs. A. P. Low and C. H. McNutt, who were detailed to prospect the country east of Hudson Bay, discovered nine complete sets of this coinage at Little Whale River. This is the most northern of the Company's posts on the east coast. One of these sets I purchased from Mr. Low at a reasonable price. I am indebted to him for the facts relating to their discovery and use. A number of specimens of this coinage have been discovered at Fort Churchill, and probably

at some of the other posts in the district, and more may yet be found. So far as I am able to count, about twenty-five sets are known to be in existence.

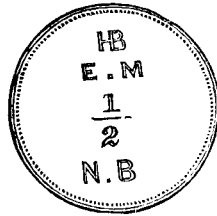


Through incidents connected with the different discoveries of these coins, and facts gleaned from other sources, much of their history and the purpose for which they were struck has been brought to light. The inscription when developed reads H(udson's) B(ay Company) E(ast) M(ain district Good for) 1 (N should be M | ade) B(eaver), or  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , or  $\frac{1}{8}$  made beaver. Through some mistake, perhaps, or carelessly written order, the engraver of the dies substituted an N for an M. But this, to the unlettered Indians, proved no obstruction to the currency of the coinage.

The Hudson's Bay Company was chartered in the reign of Charles II., for the pursuit of the fur trade in the territory around and drained by the rivers falling into Hudson Bay. The arms of the Company were made up of symbols of the fur trade. They were argent a cross gules, a beaver proper in each compartment; supporters, two stags; crest, a fox. The motto is adopted from a phrase taken from the Vulgate, occurring in the fourth verse of the second chapter of Job: *Pro Cute Cutem*, changed into *Pro pelle Cutem*, which may be roughly translated Skin for Pelt.

For the better management of the Territory it was divided into districts, one of which is alluded to on the coinage. It was called the East Main District, from the largest river flowing through it, and comprised all the country lying to the east and south of Hudson Bay. The water-shed dividing it from Labrador formed the eastern boundary, as its charter did not give the Company control of lands whose rivers did not flow into the Bay. This district, when the Company carried on the whale fishery, contained by far the most important and remunerative of its forts.

As the Indians with whom the trade was carried on were altogether unacquainted with coinage or currency, values of merchandise and furs were reckoned in beaver skins. A medium sized beaver was the unit, and everything was calculated as being worth so many *made beavers*. Thus, at the present time a *made beaver* is worth half a martin, one mink or ten muskrats, and so on. Then, again, with a *made beaver* can be purchased at the Company's stores eight pounds of flour, four of pork, or one cotton handkerchief, such as the Indians use. The accounts with the Indians are made up in the Company's books in *made beaver*. The coins were intended to facilitate the purchase of furs and other trade with the Indians. They were so deficient in mental arithmetic that they



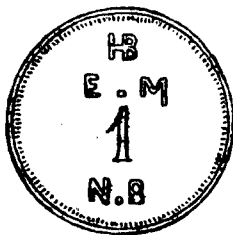
could not calculate the value of their catch, so that these tokens were given to them in exchange for furs, with which they could easily make their purchases at the stores. But as the specimens of the tokens (which are of brass) that have come under my notice show little signs of circulation, they could not have been long in use. The halves circulated most, then the one beaver size. The quarters and eighths seem hardly to have been used at all, as they are almost uncirculated. The Indians soon learned to trust the Company's officers, who were invariably trustworthy men, and their accounts in the Company's books, to running chances of losing their new change, unaccustomed as they were to pockets or wallets.

The following extract from a letter received by Mr. P. N. Breton, from one of the factors in the East main district, further elucidates this point:

"They are not in circulation now and are mostly defaced between the N and B, by a punch, to cancel them. I do not think any of the North-West Company's tokens are to be found as they are of a much earlier date. Those of the Hudson's Bay Company were



only struck about 1857, and recalled shortly afterwards; the N. B. has been an error of the die cutter for M. B., or *made beaver*, currency skin, to distinguish it from the *beaver skin*, which was formerly the unit of the trade, thus a beaver skin may be worth one, two or more *made beavers*, likewise a martin. So the skin of old parlance came to be called the beaver, and an Indian's hunt, reckoned by skins, came to be spoken of as so many *made beavers*, which is the common form of expression all over the Indian Territory, where Canadian currency is not introduced. This expression was usually written *N. B.*, but when in Roman capitals it was abbreviated to MB, and the die cutter, doubtless, mistook the monogram for N. B. These contractions in marks are still in use all over the country, thus Moose River is made MB "



These tokens were issued about the year 1857.

An older token has on the obverse the head of George III., with the inscription "Token 1820," reverse a beaver, and the inscription "North-West Company." This Company was organized in Montreal towards the close of last century, and entered into active competition with the older Company for the trade of the North-West. Its token was long known to collectors, who, nevertheless, until lately were ignorant as to the purpose of its issue. It, too, was used as a token or promise to pay the value of one *made beaver*. Only one size is known; it is altogether unlikely that others were issued, as the tokens were used during the same time. The date 1820 seems to indicate that the Hudson Bay tokens were issued shortly before or after that year—say between the years 1818 and 1822.

There has been some discussion as to whether there were similar issues for other districts occupied by the Company than the East

Main. After some thought I have, for the following reasons, come to the conclusion that no others were ever issued:

1st. No rumor has ever reached us of the existence of others.

2nd. The East Main District was by far the most important of those worked at the date of the issue of the tokens by the Company, and it is therefore likely they were issued for that district only.

3rd. The opposition and greater enterprise of the North-West Company seriously diminished the Hudson's Bay Company's trade in the western districts.

4th. The western districts were opened up for settlement some years ago, and had hoards of these coins existed in the Company's posts, they would have seen the light long ere this.

5th. As the tokens never seem to have been accepted freely by the Indians as a medium of exchange, it is unlikely the experiment would be extended to other districts.

These facts, gleaned here and there, bring before us the history of a trade that is fast passing away. The buffalo is no more; the beaver is hiding in the innermost recesses of inaccessible forests. Should not what we know be recorded, as reminders of a medium of exchange by which the Indian in days gone by, untutored as he was, was able to trade amicably with the wily white man.



## MEMORIAL

DE LA MISSION DES P. P. RECOLLETS EN LA NOUVELLE FRANCE

DICTE COMMUNEMENT CANADA. (1) 1614-1635.

L'an de grâce 1614 la mission de Canada fût présentée par Monsieur Houel, (2) secrétaire du Roy et controlleur général des Salines de Brouage au Révérend Père Chapsuin (3) provincial des P. P. Récollets de la province de Paris, lequel l'accepta fort volontiers, mais différa l'exécution d'icelle jusque à l'année suivante pour estre le temps trop brief pour les préparatifs nécessaires à un si long voyage.

(1). Ou, encore, "*Memoires de l'Affaire du Canada.*"

(2). A laissé son nom à une paroisse du diocèse de Québec, la Rivière Ouelle. Il a beaucoup protégé les Récollets au Canada. P. G. Roy.

(3). Chapoin. P. G. Roy.

La parole du susd. père provincial estant donnée, il disposa les religieux qui devaient exécuter un si s. dessein coé aussy les choses qui leur seraient nécessaires pour ce sujet alla trouver Monseigneur le Prince de Condé et Messieurs les Cardinaux et Evesques assemblés pour la tenue des Estats, lesquels à la sollicitation de Messrs. de Champlain, capitaine ordinaire pour le Roy en la dicte Nouvelle France, eslargir (1) pour le subject jusques à la somme de quinze cent livres, lesquels fîrent touchées et employées par le susdict sieur Champlain aux nécessités des religieux qui y devaient estre enuoyés.

Les religieux députés fîrent quatre dont l'un qui estoit le Père Denys (2) fut fait commissaire et supérieur. Les autres estoient le P. Jean Dolbeau, le P. Joseph Lecarron et le Frère Pacifique Du Plessis, lesquels partirent de Paris pour Honfleur où se devoit faire l'embarquement, environ le 19 ou le 16 de mars de l'année 1619, (3) et de Honfleur pour Canada le 24 avril. Ils arrivèrent assez heureusement à Tadoussac le 29 (4) mai de la même année, là ils se séparèrent pour venir à Kebec, où arrivèrent les P. P. Denys et Jean le 2me jour de juin. Le Père Joseph les ayant précédés quelques jours auparavant.

Etant ainsi arrivés en bonne santé, ils disposèrent incontinent les choses nécessaires au culte divin pendant que le Père Joseph et le Père Denys estoient allés à la Rivière des Prairies (5), ou ayant porté les ornements nécessaires pour officier le Saint Sacrifice de la messe, ils offrirent à Dieu en la présence des français et des sauvages, le premier qui lui ait été offert dans le pays (6) et peu de temps après qui fut le 27 juin, le Père Jean (7) offrit aussi le premier à Kebec.

(1). Expression naive, vraiment. *Elargir jusque* la somme de quinze cent livres. P. G. Roy.

(2). Denys Jamay. Ces pères sont assez connus de tous ceux qui savent le moindrement l'histoire du Canada. P. G. Roy.

(3). Erreur. Ce n'est pas en 1619 que les Récollets partirent de Honfleur pour le Canada, mais bien en 1615. P. G. Roy,

(4). Erreur. Ils arrivèrent à Tadoussac le 25 mai. P. G. Roy.

(5). Non loin de Montreal. P. G. Roy.

(6). Depuis Cartier, mon père. P. G. Roy.

(7). Jean Dolbeau. P. G. Roy.

Le Père Joseph ayant ainsi honoré la terre canadienne du mystère non sanglant de notre rédemption, il voulut encore en aller honorer celle des Hurons et pour le subject il se mit en chemin dès le même mois ou estant avec peines et fatigues arrivé, ils les honora le 12ème jour d'aout en un village nommé Cartagoua, Monsieur Champlain et autres français estants présents.

Le dict Père Joseph ne se contenta pas d'avoir donné jusques là ains alla encore dès l'année 1616 jusques à la nation du Petun avec Monsieur Champlain ou ils visitèrent plusieurs villages, puis à la nation neutre.

Ayant visité ce pays, il retourna à Kebec ou il arriva le 9 du mois de juillet et s'embarqua pour venir en France en la compagnie de son père commissaire. (1) Le 3ème jour d'aout, afin de donner cognoissance du profit qui se pourrait faire au susdicts pays, ayant exécuté sa déléation, il retourna l'année d'après qui fut l'année 1617, audict Kebec ou il avait laissé les P. P. Jean et Frère Pacifique.

La moisson estant grande et les moissonneurs et petit nombre, on y envoya de surcroy le Père Paul Huet et le Père Modeste, lesquels partirent de Honleur en la compagnie de Monsieur Champlain, le 24 mai de l'année 1618.

En cette année 1618, deux jeunes sauvages leurs furent donnés pour estre instruits lesquels furent le commencement du Seminaire.

La mission des susd, pères fut autorisée par un bref donné de Monseigneur Bentival, archevêque de Rhodes et nonce en France par nostre St. Père Paul cinquiesme le 20ème pour de Mars 1618 et ce du commandement du susdict pape auquel on aurait demandé.

Lettres patentes sont aussy emanées de nostre Roy très chrestien Louis XIII. par lesquelles il permettoit aux dicts P. P. Récollets de passer en la Nouvelle France et d'y construire les couvent qu'ils trouveraient à propos.

Sur cette volonté et bon plaisir les dicts pères ont donc basti un couvent et deffriché 8 ou 9 harpens de terre non sans grandes peines et incroyables charges.

La première pièce de la Chapelle du dict Couvent, fut posée par le Père Jean d'Olbeau le 3ème jour de Juin, l'an 1620 et quelque temps après elle fut acheuée et présentée a Dieu soulz le titre de

(1). Denis Jamay. P. G. Roy.

Notre Dame des Anges ou s'est toujours dict la sainte Messe du depuis jusque à temps que les Anglais nous en mirent dehors. Ceux qui ont particulièrement contribué en leurs despens si grands sont Nostre Roy très chrestien, Monsieur Ransé grand vicaire de Pontoise, Monsieur Houel et autres personnes pieuses.

Les Récollets ont touszours demeuré ainsi seuls dans tout le pays jusque à l'année 1624, qu'un de ceux nommé le Père Irénée Piat, (1) en estant de retour alla de son autorité au collège des P. P. Jésuites de cette ville de Paris, afin de les convier à une telle moisson, ce qu'il sceut si bien faire qu'ils lui promirent et en effet partirent l'année suivante où estant arrivés et ne sachant où loger, les dicts Pères Récollets voulant ajouter une charité à une autre, leur prêtèrent la moitié de leur maison en laquelle ils ont vescu en paix et charité, tel qu'un chacun scai. près de trois ans, mesme que les dicts P. P. Recollets leur permirent de desservir l'Eglise des Français en leur tour, et ainsi chacun en sa semaine administroit les sacremens, fesoit l'office et annonçait l'Évangile. Leur Jardin estoit commun et tout ce qu'ils pouvoient havoir estoit aussy aux P. P. Jésuites estant très certain que s'ils n'eussent ainsy usé de charité en leur endroit que monsieur de Caen qui les auait passé de France en Canada les eût repassés de Canada en France ne sont autant autre chose. Depuis ils ont bâti un corps de logis dont leur en havons presté la charpente qui estoit de 40 pieds de long et 25 de large en environ et nos pères ne se sont pas sur ce contentés de cette charité, car l'an 1627, ils leur prestèrent encore de la charpente, lesquelles charpentes venoient bien jusque à la somme de 800 livres.

Vivants ainsi en bonne intelligence les uns avec les autres en traueillant continuellement à la conversion de ces pauvres infidèles, le diable en crevant de despit leur en voulut oster l'occasion car il suscita les hérétiques anglois qui premierement s'attaquèrent à deux P. P. Récollets que M. M. de cette nouvelle société envoioient sous la conduite de monsieur de Roquemont l'an 1618. Ils empeschèrent leur S. Dessein depuis l'an 1629, s'adressèrent à ceux

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(1). Ainsi un père récollet affirme sous sa signature que les Jésuites furent et invités à passer dans la Nouvelle France par un membre de son ordre qui n'y était pas autorisé. P. G. Roy.

qui estoient dans les pais sans espargner les P. P. Jésuites lesquels tous ensemble ils menèrent en Angleterre et de là les envoie en France.

La congrégation de propagandâ fide ayant appris la mission des Pères Récollets en Canada la confirma et ajouta quelques articles nécessaires à icelle le tout par un décret donné le 28 Février de l'année 1635 (1).

Voila Monsieur le droit que nous havons de vouloir retourner en une maison laquelle nous havons si glorieusement acquise au glorieux Père S. François, de laquelle est le sang d'une quantité de personnes pieuses qu'elles se sont expressement osté le morceau .... afin de voir la famille d'un si grand patriarche estendue aux quatre coins du monde.

Ne permettez donc pas Monsieur qu'une ignominie et confusion si grande vienne à tomber sur un si grand corps la Tache duquel ne peut pas qu'elle ne retombe au deshonneur et désavantage du ciel même et de la sainte Église Romaine.

Nous en havons esté chassés, il est vray, mais ça esté pour la querelle de Dieu, et par les ennemis de nostre religion. Faictes donc de grâce que nous y soyons établis puisque la persécution est passée et que le chemin n'en est défendu qu'aux seuls hérétiques.

On nous objecte que nous ne nous accordons pas avec les P. P. Jésuites, et considérez de grâce que si nous eussions appréhendé cela, que jamais nous ne les eussions appelés pour travailler par ensemble à la vigne de Notre-Seigneur. Nous havons demeurés près de cinq ans par ensemble et sous la mesme toict, et nous n'avons jamais eu une parole plus haute l'une que l'autre, nostre jardin n'était-il pas le leur, et nostre chambre n'était-elle point à eux, les peuples françois se sont-ils jamais émus pour nos considérations, et les sauvages ont-ils recognu deux ministres pour voir deux sortes d'habits ainsi qu'on nous objecte.

On dit que nous havons postulé d'ériger le Canada en évesché, et d'en estre les premiers évesques : mais qu'on considère comme le tout s'est passé, et on verra si nous ne sommes pas plus dignes de

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(1). *Decretum Sac. Congregationis de Prop. Fid. habitæ die XXVIII. Februarii M.D.C. XXX. Ant. Barberin Cardin. Sagard (Histoire du Canada) et Le Clercq (Première établissement de la foi dans la Nouvelle-France, tome 1, p. 447) citent ce décret.*

louanges que de blâmes, car cela n'est jamais venu de nous, ains de la congrégation de propaganda fide, laquelle voulait comme (1)..... donner cette nouvelle dignité à un Récollat d'Aquitaine, qui est pénitentier dans S. Léon de Latran, il y a déjà longtemps. Mais le Révérend Père Provincial des Récollats de Paris, ayant eu cognoissance de cette menée, incontinent s'y est opposé, tant à Rome qu'à Paris, et a fait en sorte que le tout s'est réduit en fumée, et quoique Monseigneur l'Eminentissime Cardinal s'y soit opposé, et en ait escrit à Rome, néantmoins c'est chose très assurée que le tout estoit déjà rompu. Ils disent pour une troisième raison, et c'est la plus forte, que nos pères n'ont pas esté d'édification parcequ'ils alloient à la chasse et à la pesche ; mais jugez un peu, s'il vous plaist, que ce qui est scandale en un pays ne l'est pas en l'autre, et que ce qui est deffendu icy est permis là ; puis la nécessité n'a point de lieu ; ils le vouloient ainsy eux-mesmes, ils y contraignaient nos pères en ne leur donnant rien. Que s'ils eussent eu aultre chose pour vivre, ils n'y eussent jamais esté. La flotte a esté deux années sans arriver au pays qui a contrainct et les Récollats et les Jésuites à mener cette vie. Voilà toutes les raisons monsieur, lesquelles bien pesées seront plus tost pour nous que contre nous, et quand bien n'y ferait pas, les nostres crient nostre retour devant Dieu et les hommes, escoutez les s'il vous plaist.

Premièrement, quand n'en aurions point d'aultres que celles que vous venez de voir cy-dessus dans le mémorial de notre mission, il n'y a personne qui ne puisse justement dénier nostre retour, car nous havons un couvent en Canada et quantité de lieux défrichés ; nous y havons fait beaucoup de voyages et mesme bon nombre de manœuvres pour les défrayements de tous lesquelles choses le Révérend Père Provincial avec nostre Père Syndic, feront voir que jamais quarante mille francs n'y ont fourni, nous n'y havons rien épargné voyant l'obligation grande que messieurs de la Compagnie avoient de nous passer, car elles ont toutes fort volontiers chargé sur leurs épaules ceste obligation des uns des aultres de sorte que il n'y en a jamais eu aucune qui ait fait seulement semblant de vouloir (2) .....desnier le passage ni aux jésuites ni à nous-mesmes,

(1). Le reste était illisible. P. G. Roy.

(2). Note de M. Faucher de Saint-Maurice : " Cette lacune se trouve dans la copie du manuscrit faite par M. Pierre Margry."

que cette nouvelle Compagnie nous y passa l'an 1628 et nous y eut passé l'an 1633, n'eust esté que nous fusmes surpris.

La parole M. de Lauson et de sa compagnie, donnée et enrégistrée dès l'année passé pour cette présente doit hauoir beaucoup de force, car sur icelle les religieux qui y deuoient aller se sont venus assembler à Paris de divers couvents, bonne partie de provisions et munitions nécessaires se sont faictes, les peuples en ont esté auestis. Les couvents de la prouince à ce bruit se sont efforcés de contribuer et beaucoup de personnes se sont mises en peine. Cette parole n'a pas esté seulement donnée une fois, ains encore répétée plusieurs autres rencontres mesme que le dict Sieur de Lauzon l'a faict voler jusque en Canada, et pour ce on a cessé de cultiver nostre terre, laquelle on a toujours ensemencée jusque à l'anné passée, les séculiers mesme en cette ville lui ont ouy dire que nous y passerions, ce qui a faict que sans aucunes difficultés nous auons importuné nos amis, lesquels croiront, et avec raison, si nous n'y passons pas, que nous sommes des trompeurs et abuseurs de peuples. Monsieur de Lauson, par ceste seule raison, vus esies invité de teuir votre parole et les contrats bien cimentés de nos prédécesseurs à faute de quoy nous prions, messsieurs, de la lui faire tenir, pour l'amour de Dieu et de St. François, son fidèle serviteur.

Ce *Mémorial* a été écrit par le Père Potentan, nommé supérieur de la mission de la Nouvelle France. Je ne sais trop à qui il a été présenté.

P. G. ROY.



### MONTREAL FASHIONS IN THE OLD-TIME.

"Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy." — *Cowper*.



IN the "good old times" there did not exist in Montreal such a thing as a *Fashion Journal*. The aristocrat followed the fashions of London, where he had his clothes made. His measure was taken by "Father" Gibb, of St. James Street,\* and the order was executed in the mother country, and, it need not be said, was rather expensive.

\*The late Beniah Gibb, the founder of the Art Gallery.



The first French Canadian tailor who attained popularity was Mr. Joseph Boulanger, whose establishment was on Notre Dame Street, near Bonsecours Street, next door to the old Donegana Hotel.

For about 50 years it was the fashion for professional men, merchants and others, to wear white coats and pants, and a high cravat, with a white false collar reaching to the ears. Gentlemen walked the streets in tail coats, ornamented with gilt-brass buttons. The poorer class dressed in home-spun cloth, and wore soft woollen hats with high crowns.

Felt was not known to our ancestors. Fine beaver hats were formerly made from the real beaver fur; later on they were made of plush, the hair of which was about an inch long. These hats were very tall, and bore the name of "Waterloo."

During the winter the men wore unsightly muffs of bearskin. The *ceintures flechtes* were then very much worn. They were very richly embroidered; a good one sold at from ten to twenty dollars. These sashes were brought to Montreal by the North-West *royageurs*. Nearly all the rich citizens wore the *ceinture flechte* over their winter garments.

In 1820 cotton was not known. Our grandfathers' shirts were made of linen.

The farmers wore shirts made of sack linen; their shirts had neither buttons nor collars; and they were fastened with large pins made of pewter. The *habitants* wore shirts made of drugget.

When they came to market they wore aprons made of leather or sheepskin, large big boots, coming halfway up to the knee, and blue tuques. The capuchon was always in favour.

Interesting illustrations of old-time costumes may be found in Lambert's "Travels in Canada."



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**A LETTER FROM QUEBEC IN 1778.**


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The following is extracted from *The Remembrancer; or, Impartial Repository of Public Events for the year 1778-79*. Published in London, 1779.

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QUEBEC, August 25th, 1778.

 EVERYTHING is quiet in this country. The Indians have been ravaging the back settlements of Connecticut and New York provinces. We hear that they have destroyed above 1000 families, and scalped the whole of them; they have brought 15 persons into this province; they had at first 25, but had *roasted and eaten* ten of them, in the woods, at their war-feast. I heartily wish that they had your Commissioners in their bellies, could that be the means of bringing about a reconciliation. There are some 80 to 100 of these savages now out murdering the people, at the back of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"We hear from some fur Indians who have come in, that there is a war in Hudson Bay, but their tale is so unconnected we can make nothing of it. The Gulf of St. Lawrence has been full of privateers all summer, and they have taken several prizes."


**A PEEP AT A BEAVER VILLAGE.**


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 T is a beautiful September evening. The sun is just sinking out of sight behind a low range of wooded hills, and his beams tint the sky and woods with beautiful colors. Everything looks as if fairy hands had been at work. On the shore of a little lake encircled by the forest, stands a log shanty half concealed by the trees. In front of this and gathered around a blazing fire, a party of young men are sitting. Scattered near by in picturesque confusion, lie guns, game bags, and other articles of a sportsman's outfit. Such was the appearance of our party as we were camped beside Trout Lake, near the head-waters of the Keswick River, September, 1886.

Our guide had gone to the lake in search of ducks, and we were preparing supper before his return. The tea-kettle was just beginning to sing, and the frying trout to sizzle, when our Indian guide appeared on the scene with a couple of ducks and a brace or two of partridges slung over his back. "Me no go hunt for not'ings," he laconically remarked, and took his accustomed seat on the end of the log bench in front of the fire.

While we were eating our supper some of the boys questioned "Joe" about his day's sport. He would not give them any satisfactory answers, but turned his whole attention to the business in hand. I knew by his manner that he had some news for us, and I further knew that he would not tell us until he was ready.

When supper was finished, and we had all gathered around the camp-fire to tell stories and have a smoke, Joe informed us that he had something to tell us. After puffing till he was enveloped in a cloud of smoke, he took his pipe out of his mouth and began :

"Me go for about mile round lake, and me strike brook flowing t'wards setting sun. Me see sign of beaver along bank, and me t'ink me go and see if me find 'em. When me go down, maybe mile, maybe less, me find large pond of 'im, plenty wigwams. Then me come home 'gain. Sun pretty far down."

This piece of information raised us all to the highest pitch of excitement. We had never seen a single beaver, much less a whole colony of them, and we wanted to start on a sight-seeing expedition as soon as possible.

Joe became the centre of enquiry, but that stolid individual evidently thought we were out of our heads. He calmly smoked away as if no one was near. At last he slowly said, "Heap big fools; beaver no fly, no run away."

This forcible argument quieted us somewhat, and we thought it best to sit down and await further developments from the guide.

That exasperating mortal said nothing more till he had finished his smoke. Then he remarked, "In half hour moon she come up, den we go and see beaver build him house."

This statement satisfied us, and we joyfully set about preparing for the trip. In a short time the moon rose and shed her soft light over the woods. The waves on the lake seemed crowned with silver.

With Joe leading we filed into the forest. All nature seemed asleep. The branches rustled, and the twigs crackled and snapped beneath our feet. Nothing else broke the silence, except the occasional chirp of a startled squirrel, or the long-drawn "who-oo-oo-oo" of an owl. The trees appeared larger than usual, and we fancied that they took ghostly shapes. We tramped along in silence for half an hour, when our leader motioned us to stop. "We come near brook now," Joe said, "you make no noise but keep eye on me."

Advancing slowly and cautiously we soon reached the bank. Then we crept along on our hands and knees till we came to a bend in the stream. Here Joe held up his hand to enjoin silence. A few yards further and a wonderful scene was disclosed.

The stream spread out on both sides forming a shallow pond nearly a hundred yards in length and perhaps thirty in breadth. At the lower end of this a rough dam was built across the stream. It was singular in shape, with the apex facing the current. Near this, with their tops just showing above the water, could be seen about a dozen piles of brush and dirt. These were the houses of the beavers.

The beavers were there sure enough and hard at work. They seemed to average about two feet in length, were brown in colour, in fact almost black, and covered with thick fur. Their heads were round, their ears very short and their eyes very far apart. The most striking thing about a beaver is his tail. It is about ten inches long and shaped something like the blade of a paddle. It is not covered with fur, but with a thick, dark-coloured skin.

The tail is of great importance. He uses it as a rudder when swimming, as a prop when sitting upon land, and as a mallet when building. He also signals danger with it, by slapping it on the water, when he dives.

We noticed that the beavers were excellent swimmers, and rather poor travellers on land. Their legs are very short. This makes them waddle along.

Some of them were on the bank near us cutting (or gnawing rather) trees, and floating them down to the dam. A couple of beavers would select a small tree near the edge of the stream. They would sit on their haunches, using their tails as props, and gnaw

round and round till it fell. They always managed to make it fall into the water. Then they would cut the tree into suitable lengths and float them down to the scene of building operations.

Many of the beavers were engaged in building work. They would place the sticks and blocks of wood in position, and then fill up the gaps with sods and brush, which they carried from the bank between their forepaws and chin. Their tails were used as mallets, and kept up a continual slapping.

As the moon was shining brightly, and everything else was quiet, this busy colony formed a strange and beautiful picture. It was soon to change. One of the boys had crawled in a little too near the bank in his anxiety to see more clearly. Without any warning the earth gave way, and into the water he went with a splash. There was a succession of resounding slaps, as each beaver dove, and in a moment everything was quiet, and the silence was only broken by the splashing of our companion as he endeavoured to climb up the slippery bank. We rolled on the ground with laughter at his appearance. He was covered with sticky mud from head to foot and presented a sorry spectacle.

After our party had somewhat recovered from the effects of our friend's fall, we took one last look at the pond, which now concealed its inhabitants, and set out for the camp. I shall never forget that night, and hope that some-time in the future, I may again see a beaver colony at work.—*University Monthly*.



18 AOUT 1621.

Saichent tous qu'il appartiendra que l'an de grâce q. b. y. c. x. x. y. (1621) le dishuictiesme jour d'Aoust du règne de tres hault, très puissant et très chrestien monarque, Louis x. c. y. ( ) du nom Roy de France, de Navarre et de la Nouvelle France, dicte Occidentale du Gouvernement de hault et puissant Seigneur, Messire Henry, duc de Montmorency et de Dampville pair et admiral de France Gouverneur et Lieutenant-Général pour le Roy en Languedoc et Vice-Roy des pais et terre de la Nouvelle France dicte Occidentale, de la lieutenance de noble homme, Samuel de Champlain,

Capitaine ordinaire pour le Roy, en la marine, Lieutenant Général ès dictes terres pais du dict sieur Lieutenant se serait faicte une assemblée générale de tous les Français habitans de ce pais de la Nouvelle France, affin d'auser des moiens les plus pro-pres sur la ruine et désolation de tout ce pais et pour chercher les moiens de conserver la religion catholique apost et Romaine en son entier l'auctorité du Roy inviolable et l'obéissance due au dict Seigneur Vise Roy adrés que par le dit Sieur Lieutenant Religieux et habitans, présence du Sieur Baptist Guers commissaire du dict Seigneur Vice-Roy a estéconclue et promis de ne vivre que pour la conseruation de la dicte religion obéissance inviolable au Roy y e du présent mois en tout considéré. Le Roy en son Conseil auparauant faire droit sur la d. requête a ordonné et ordonnons que par le commissaire rapporteur sera informé des faits contenus en la dite requête pour la dite information rapportée estre ordonnée ce que de raison fait à Paris le x. m. y. ème le quatorzième, Janvier, 1622.

Cette arrêt est extrait d'un cahier intitulé "*Regisi des arretz donnez au Conseil privé du Roy durant le quartier de Janvier, Février et Mars de l'année 1622.*" Ce cahier était aux archives nationales à Paris.

P. G. ROY.

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### A CERTIFICATE.

—•—•—•—•—•—•—

MICHILIMACKINA, the 26th of MAY, 1768. These may certifie that I, the subscriber, being by appointment a Draughtsman for a party Comanded by Captain James Tute that I joyned him about the first of May, 1767, at Laprairie, Lechien—*La prairie du chien*—on the Mississipi, that he was obliged at that place to give very large presents to the several nations assembled there in order to prevail with them not to go to Spanish Louissiana, but to remain in the English interest—after which the party, under his direction, proceeded to the north, passed through several Indian Villages—that I was knowing to his giving large presents to the several Bands we passed which appears to me he could no ways avoid in the situation we at that time was under—and that I verily believe that Captain Tute used the utmost discretion on that account that was in his power—and, by what I have seen in his accounts that they are very just as to the publick and peticular expenses of the voyage.

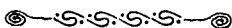
(Attest), JOH<sup>E</sup> CARVER.

*Capt. Carver acknowledges this to be his hand-writing in presence of us.*

GEO. McBEATH,  
GREGOR MACGREGOR.

The foregoing document is signed by the author of "Travels in North America during the years 1766, 1767 and 1768," a work which has had many editions and been translated in several languages. As the grammar in the above is somewhat dubious, it is only fair to state that the hand writing—with the exception of the signature, is all of Geo. McBeath's, one of the attesting witnesses.

Tiré de la Collection de l'Hon. Juge Baby.



### LE COMPTE D'UN PEREUQUIER IL Y A 124 ANS.

Etat des Ouvrages et fournitures que j'ai faits et fournis à Mr. Monière.

Depuis le p <sup>er</sup> Avril, 1767. Jusqu'au per. 7 bre. de la même année, l'avoir Rasé à sa maison de campagne	£.	c.
prix fait avec luy à 7£ 10c. par mois, faisant 5 mois.	37	10
Depuis le p <sup>er</sup> 7 bre. 1767. Jusqu'au per. dbre. 1768, formant quinze mois à 4£ 10c. par mois.....	67	10
Fournie quatre Rubans de queue à 2£ 10c.....	10	—
Cinq Repassages de Razoire payés au coutellier à 15c..	3	15
Pour port de lettres payé pre. luy.....	6	—
2 lb. poudre et un pot pommade.....	5	—
Total.....	£129	15c

PIERRE GUILHOT,

M<sup>TR</sup>E. PEREUQUIER  
MONTREAL.



### BON MOT—GENERAL WOLFE.

The following *bon mot*, which forms a foot-note to Thackeray's *Denis Duval*, page 2, is worthy of repetition:—

"I remember a saying of G—Aug—st—s S—liv—n, Esq., regarding General Wolfe, which has not been told, as far as I know, in the anecdotes. A Macaroni guardsman, speaking of Mr. Wolfe, asked, 'Was he a Jew?—Wolfe was a Jewish name.' 'Certainly,' says, Mr. S—liv—n, 'Mr. Wolfe was the *Height of Abraham*.'"

## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.

## ORIGINAL LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR PEWS IN 1814.

The following is a copy of the original list of the subscribers for pews in the first Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, destroyed by fire, December 10, 1856, and the site of which was where the old French prison stood, and afterwards the Crystal Block, on Notre Dame Street:—

✓ Sir John Johnson	R. Porteous	John Wragg
James M <sup>c</sup> Gill's repres.	W. Langhorne	J. Blackwood
S. Gerrard	J. Marshall	H. Robertson
Alex. Henry	J. Swan	J. Glago
John Richardson	Northrop & Co.	Alex. Skakel
Mrs. Gray	T. A. Turner	H. Leodel
J. W. Clarke	J. Peters	Js. Hughes
J. Reid	Geo. Clarke	Robert Griffen
Mrs. Davidson	J. Rittman	Rossiter Hoyle
John Gregory	Jas. Fraser	Miss Howard
S. Sewell	F. Shaver	Beniah Gibb
F. W. Ermatinger	Henry Schroeder	S <sup>o</sup> Dumas
Repres. of A. Winkelfoss	J. Marston	J. Reinhart
W. M <sup>c</sup> Gillivray	Squire Thomas	J. Mittleberger
Jas. Caldwell	Geo. Hobbs	P. Hayne
J. Bleakley	J. Woolrich	S. Clarke
Ross Cuthbert	W. Hallowell	F. Stemm
E. Sanford	David Ross	Nath. Stearns
W. Gilmour & Sons	George Garden	Ed. M <sup>c</sup> Ginnis
J. Shay	David Ogden	C. Grothe
Wadsworth & Lyman	Christian Gundlack	J. D. Fleming
J. & J. Hall	John Wilson	Ol. Smith
J. & J. Wurtele	✓ Fred'k Gonnerman	W. Shepherd
W. Hall	Geo. Wurtele	John Shuter
H. Forest	J. & G. Platt	H. Piper
J. M <sup>c</sup> Donall	D. Sutherland	J. Clarke
W. & B. Wragg	A. Kollmyer	Ch. Forrest
J. Forsyth	P. Shortz	J. Mosses
W. G. Bell	R. & J. Brooks	Rev'd Dr. Mountain
W. Cook	T. Busby	J. Trim
Josh. Frobisher's representatives		Representative of J. Saxton
Representative of Patrick Robertson		M. Noel, (Mr. Shortz)
Arthur Webster, representative of		Representative of E. Edwards
R. Cruikshanks		Representative of C. Marstellers
W. Maitland, (his son)		Representative of Mrs. M <sup>c</sup> Clements
Repres. of Mrs. Perry (Mr. Martin)		Representative of W. Hamilton
Repres. of J. A. Gray (Mr. Ermatinger)		Representative of F. Diffenbach
Repres. of J. Chew (Miss Chew)		Representative of Jacob Kuhn



A QUERY.

LAFAYETTE, Indiana, Dec. 20, 1890.

DEAR SIR:

A short time ago, near the former site of the French settlement Ouiatenon (about three miles from this place), a number of silver relics were unearthed. Upon a silver cross were stamped the initials "R. C." Two silver bracelets were also found, each bearing the same initials, together with the word "Montreal."

This settlement is supposed to have been established in 1720, and to have been at the height of its prosperity in about 1760. The "R. C." evidently stood for the initials of some silversmith of Montreal.

If convenient, please kindly let me know if there are any records in existence which might show who the silversmith of Montreal was, between 1720 and 1760.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT S. HATCHER.

*To the Secretary**Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, Montreal.*THE CHAMPLAIN MONUMENT.*(To the Editor of the Quebec Morning Chronicle.)*

DEAR SIR,—The long-deferred project of a monument to the founder of Quebec, Samuel de Champlain, is again coming to the front, this time with better chances of success. The idea is not, however, a new one. It originated nearly twelve years back, and then took form as the outcome of a general meeting of the *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec*, as appears by the following extract, page 9, Transactions, presented in 1880.

Extract from proceedings at a general monthly meeting of the Literary and Historical Society, held on the 9th April, 1879, touching the erection of a statue or monument to Samuel de Champlain, the founder of Quebec:—

At the general monthly meeting, held 9th April, 1879, the President, J. M. LeMoine, Esq., introduced in the following terms the project of erecting a monument or statue to the founder of the

city, Samuel de Champlain: "Gentlemen,—I am, I think, merely echoing the sentiments of the four hundred members of this Society, I might perhaps add, of all Quebec, in pressing on your attention the propriety of commemorating by some outward sign—let me say the word at once—by a suitable monument or statue in one of our public places, the name of the illustrious founder of our city, Samuel de Champlain. As a discoverer, a geographer, an undaunted leader, a man of letters, a Christian gentleman, the founder and first governor of Quebec, must ever live in American history. Revered and immortal will be his name! Close on thirty years of his adventurous career was spent either at the "Abitation de Kébec," in the lower town or high on the frowning cliffs of old Stadacona, where stood his castle, the famous Chateau St. Louis. To enlist your sympathy in this patriotic cause, I need only mention the subject. At the present moment, our younger sister city, Montreal, founded in 1642, thirty-four years later than Quebec, is taking the necessary steps, with the aid of citizens of all origins, to have erected within two years a monument and statue to its valiant founder, Chomedey de Maisonneuve. It is time Quebecers should wake up also to a sense of duty—the pleasant duty of keeping green and fragrant the memory of its venerated first Governor, and if it be the province of any society in particular by its connection with history, to favor any such project, I think the pleasant task by right belongs to the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec."

Moved by Dr. W. Boswell, seconded by James Stevenson, Esq.: That the Society approves of the above.

It will, of course, rest with a committee of citizens representing all nationalities to carry out the patriotic idea, and will, of course, find many of its most zealous promoters among the St. Jean Baptiste Society, who have made it quite a live issue.

Erecting monuments to historical personages is a very expensive undertaking. 'Tis not to be accomplished in a day or a year. Scott's superb shaft, on Prince street, Edinburgh, cost \$80,000. Quebec can afford no such costly structure—some place at \$10,000, some at \$20,000 the probable cost of a monument to our founder. But whatever the structure may be, let us hope it will be worthy of Champlain—worthy of Quebec.

A difficulty—perhaps not unsurmountable—may arise as to the selection of the site for this memorial, from the existence of a clause in the deed of purchase by the City Council, from the Provincial Government, of that portion of the Jesuit estate facing the Basilica, on which the future City Hall is likely to be built.

Under the terms of this deed, three statues are to be erected on this lot; of which Champlain will form one.

Unless this clause is struck out or modified by the contracting parties the city will be held to it.

The most fitting place for a monument to the founder of the city is undoubtedly the spot where stood his official residence—in later years known as the historic Chateau Saint Louis—now Dufferin Terrace. An additional reason in favor of this selection might be adduced from the fact that one of the learned antiquaries, the Revd. Abbé H. R. Casgrain, engaged in discussing the problem of the whereabouts of Champlain's tomb, is of opinion that the illustrious first Governor's ashes repose on this site, in the space in rear of the present City Post Office.

Let us erect the long wished for monument on this locality; later on the three statues may have their turn.

Saturday's meeting will, doubtless, end in the selection of an efficient committee, non-sectional but highly representative in its elements. All nationalities must be fairly represented.

I remain, dear Sir,  
Your most obdt.

J. M. LEMOINE.

QUEBEC, Dec. 12, 1890.



### LE SIEUR DE LA POTHERIE. (1)

18 Janvier, 1622.

Sur le rapport de la requeste présentée au Roy en Son Conseil par frère George (2) Religieux, observance de St. François, député des habitans de la Nouvelle France, dicte occidentale partye sep-

(1) C'est le nom du Conseiller du Roy qui a redigé l'arrêt.

(2) George LeTaillif, député, le 18 aout, 1621, par les habitans de Québec, pour aller porter les plaintes au roi.

tentrionale de l'Amerique, tenante à ce que pour les causes y contenues et attendu les entreprises faites sur sa personne le x i y e (3) de présent mois par ung nommé Hébert (4) associé du Capitaine de Caen associé des Sieurs de Villemenon et Dolu pour le d. voyage. Il pleust à Sa Majesté prendre en protection et sauvegarde le d suppliant et le mettre en la garde du dit de Caen et ses associé's et attendu le rapport du commissionnaire du Sr. Duc de Montmorency con.enant les malversations et attentat du dict Hébert, homme vagabond et de mauvaise uye ordonner qu'il sera pris et appréhendé au corps pour respondre des excez mentionnez au d rapport et autres qui se verront par le procès pendant au d. Conseil dont il est complice avec le d. de Caen et associés et..... permettre au d. suppliant de faire informer par deuant le rapporteur de l'instance des paroles et suites d'actes faits tant par le d. Hébert que gens qui l'assistaient le dit jour x m, et conservation de l'auctorité du dict Seigneur Vice Roy, voiant cependant la prochaine ruine de tout le pays a esté d'une pareille vois délibéré que l'on ferait choix d'une personne de l'Assemblée, pour estre député de la part de tout le général du pais, affin d'aller aux pieds du Roy, faire les très humbles soumissions auxquelles la nature christianissime et obligation rendoit tous subjects redevables et présenter avec toute humilité le cahier du pais, auquel seront contenus les désordres arriüés en ce paiz, et notamment ceste année g b y x x y et aussy qu'iceluy député aille trouver nostre dit Seigneur Vice Roy, pour lui communiquer semblablement des mêmes désordres et le supplier se joindre à leur complainte pour la demande de l'ordre nécessaire à tant de malheurs qui menacent ces terres d'une perte future et finalement pour qu'iceluy député puisse agir, requérir, convenir traiter et accorder pour le général du d. pays, en tout et partout ce qui fera l'avantage de dict pays et pour ce tout d'un pareil consentement, et de la mesme voix cognaissant la sainte ardeur à la religion chrestienne, le zèle inviolable au service du Roi, et de l'affection passionnée à la conservation de l'auctorité du dict seigneur Vice Roy, qu'à touzours constamment et fidèlement tesmoigné le Révérend Père Georges Lebaillif, religieux de l'ordre des Récollects joint sa grande probité et prudence nous l'auons commis député et

(3) Le deuxième jour de présent mois.

(4) Il est souvent parlé de ce Hébert dans l'histoire des premiers temps de la colonie.

délégué avec plein pouvoir et charge de faire agir, représenter, requérir, convenir, escrire et accorder pour et au nom de tous les habitans de cette terre suppliant avec toute humilité Sa Majesté son conseil et nostre dict Seigneur Vice Roy, d'agrèer ceste nostre délégation conserver et protéger le dict révérend Père en ce qu'il ne soit troublé ny molesté de quelque personne que ce soit ni sous quel que pretexte que ce puisse estre, à ce que paisiblement, Il puisse faire agir et poursuivre les affaires du pais auquel nous donnons derechef pouvoir de réduire tous les advis a lui donnez par les particuliers en ung cahier général et a iceluy apposer sa signature avec ample déclaration que nous faisons d'avoir pour agréable et tenir pour valable tout ce que sera par iceluy Révérend père fait, signé requis négocié et accordés pour ce qu'il consernera le dit pais et de plus luy donnons pouvoir de nommer et instituer ung ou deux avocats du Conseil de Sa Majesté, cours souveraines et juridictions pour et en son nom et au nostre escrire, consulter, signer, plaider et requérir de Sa Majesté et de Son Conseil, tout ce quy concernera les affaires de ceste Nouvelle France, s'y requerrons humblement tous les princes, potentats, seigneurs, gouverneurs, prélats, justicier et tous qu'il appartiendra de donner assistance et faveur audit révérend Père et empescher qu'iceluy allant, venant ou sejournant en France, ne soit inquiété ou molesté en ceste présente délégation avec particulière obligation de reconnaissance autant qu'il sera à nous possible.

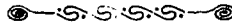
Donné à Québec, en la Nouvelle France, souz la signature des principaux habitans faisant pour le général, lesquels pour authentifier d'avantage ceste délégation ont prié le très Révérend père en Dieu, Denis Jamet, Commissaire des Religieux, qui sont en ces terres d'apposer son sceau ecclésiastique ce jour et an que dessus signé :

Champlain ; F. Denis Jamet, commissaire ; F. Joseph Le Caron ; Hébert, procureur du Roy ; Gillebert Courseron, lieutenant du prevost ; Boullé Pierrey, Le Tardif, T. Legroux, P. Desportes, -- Nicolas, greffier de la juridiction de Quebesq et greffier de l'assemblée ; — Guers, commissaire de monseigneur le Vice Roy et président en ceste eslections et scellé en place et du scel de d. père commissaire.

Collationné à l'original par moy conseiller et serveteur du Roy.  
BONVET.

L'original de cette pièce appartenait aux archives de Versailles. Il à été copié pour le Bureau des Archives du Canada. M. Ferland, dans son HISTOIRE DU CANADA, l'a publié en partie.

P. G. ROY.



### TESTAMENT DE M. DE CALLIÈRE.

Pardevant Le Notaire Royal en la prevosté de quebec sousigné y Résidant et Temoins cy bas nommes. Fut present haut et puissant Seigneur Mrs. Louis hector de Calieres, Chevalier de l'Ordre militaire de Saint Louis, gouverneur et Lieutenant general pour le Roy en tout ce pays de la nouvelle France, gisant au lit malade dans sa Chambre au Chateau de Saint Louis de cette ville de quebec Toutes fois sein desprit memoire et Entendement ainsi quil est aparu au d. notaire et Temoins par ses gestes et maintien et autres actions extérieures lequel considerant quil ny a Rien de sy certain que La mort n'y desy Incertain que Lheure dicelle, et Desirant ne deceder Intestat sans auparavant avoir mis ordre a ses affaires et disposé des biens quil a plut a dieu Luy donner, Il a de son pur Mouvement at Volonté fait, dicté et nommé de mot a mot au d. notaire soussigné les d. temoins presens son Testament et ordonnance de derniere volonté en la forme et maniere quy suit, au nom du pere du Fils et du Saint esprit, &c. *Premierement*, Comme vray chrestien et catholique a Recommendé et Recommande son Ame quand elle partira de son Corps a dieu Le pere Tout puissant a ce quil luy plaise par les Infinies merittes de la mort et passion de nostre Seigneur Jesus Christ, et par les Intercessions de la Tres Sainte vierge Marie, De ses saints patrons et de tous les Saints et Saintes du paradis la mettre et plasser au Rang des biens heureux;

Declare le d. Seigneur Testateur quil veut et entend que Toutes ses dettes soient entièrement payées et acquittées et Fort faits sy aucuns se trouvent Repares et amandés par son executeur Testamentaire cy après nommé, Item fait le d. Seigneur son Testament de cinq sols quil veut et desire quy soient aumosnes en La maniere accoutumée.

Item declare le d. Seigneur Testateur quil a une singullière devotion D'estre Inhumé et Enterré en leglize des Reverends peres Recollets de cette ville desquels Il est Syndic apostolique, Il veut en ce chef pour eviter les obstacles et contradictions quy pourroient y estre aportés sans cela, que sil arrive quil plaise a dieu de le retirer de cette vie, mesme prie et requiert quil soit inhumé dans la d. Eglise de Reverends peres Recollets en la manière et avec les simples ceremonies que les d. peres jugeront a propos luy estre convenables en la dite qualité de Syndic Apostolique, pere et protecteur spirituel de leur ordre en ce d. pays, souhaitant et desirant que sa devotion et pietté soit satisfaite a cet egard sans empessement ny obstacle, de quelque part que ce soit Telle estant sa volonté, et que son coeur soit séparé de son corps et mis dans une boiste de plomb ou d'argent pour ensuite estre déposés ès mains des d. Reverends peres Recollets. Pour estre gardés a ce que Monsieur le Marquis de Calieres, frère du d. Seigneur Testateur leur ayt donné ses avis sur son intention a cette egard.

Item. Veut le d. Seigneur Testateur que sur ses biens il soit donné et aumosné aux d. reverends pères Recollets entre les mains du Sieur Hauteville, leur syndic ordinaire et receveur de leurs aumosnes La somme de douze cens livres monnoye de France pour estre employée a lachevement de la batisse ou autres necessitez de leur couvent de cette d. ville, a la charge de dire et celebrer par les d. reverends peres Recollets en leur d. esglise. Tous les jours une messe basse pendant l'an du deceds de ly Seigneur Testateur pour le repos de son ame et outre ce un service annuel tous les ans a perpétuitté a pareil jour de son deceds lequel service annuel il desire et veut estre apliqué tant pour le repos de son ame, que pour celuy de ses heritiers lorsqu'il seront decedés.

Item donne et legue le d. Seigneur Testateur tout ce qui depend de sa garderobbe consistant en ses habits, linges et autres hardes dicelle d'argent en dependant ; savoir la moistie franche du tout ou Sieur de Hauteville son secrétaire, et l'autre moistie aux Sieurs Beaufort son maistre d'hotel et gillet son vallet de chambre par moitie et egalles portion outre et au pardessus de ce quy leur pourra être deu de leurs gages, et a pour les bons et agreables service que les d. Sieurs Hauteville, Beaufort et Gillet lui ont rendus et rendent journellement.

Item declare le d. Seigneur Testateur qu'il delaisse tous les biens generallement quelconques quy se trouveront luy appartenir apres son deceds a Mon d. Sieur Le Marquis de Calieres son frere qui est son seul et unique héritier pour par lui en disposer ainsy que bon luy semblera ; Iceilly Seigneur, Testateur priant et requerant Mon d. Sieur son Frere d'avoir soin de Monsieur Le Chevalier de Courcy ne luy ayant connu que de bonnes Inclinations.

Et pour executer le present Testament Iceilly augmenter plustot que diminuer Le d. Seigneur Testateur a nommé le d. Sieur de hauteville son Secretaire et pour prendre le soin du reste de lestat de ses biens et affaires qui peuvent estre a present en ce pays et peuvent luy venir de France la presente année et en cas de mort du d. Sieur hauteville Le Sieur François hazeur marshand bourgeois de cette ville quil prie den prendre la peine, et a cet effet se demest et devest de tous ses biens eu leurs mains, veut et entend quilz en soient vestus et mis en possession suivant La Coutume estant son intantion et derniere volonté, le d. Seigneur Testateur priant et requerant a eet effet Monseigneur Debeauharnois Intendant de Justice police et Finance en ce pays a ce present de luy continuer son amitie et dapuyer les d. Sieurs hauteville ou hazeur de sa protection et de son autorité pour l'execution de ce que dessus.

Ce fut ainsy fait et dicte de mot a mot par le d. Seigneur Testateur au d. notaire et par Iceilly notaire leu et releu au d. Seigneur Testateur en sa chambre au d. shateau de Saint Louis de Quebec sur les dix heures du soir Le vingt cinquiesme jour de may mil sept cent trois en presence des Sieurs pierre huguet et Joseph annibal Temoins demeurans au d. quebec quy ont avec Mon d. Seigneur L' Intendant et Messieurs Le Marquis de Cresasix, lieutenant de Roy, Deramesay Commandant des troupes et delagrois capitaine d'une compagnie dicelle aussy a ce presens et notaire signé le d. Seigneur Testateur n'ayant pu signer exactement a cause du grand tremblement de sa main quoy quil y ayt essayé par trois diverses fois mais d'une maniere sy tremblante quil n'est pas possible de lire sa signature a laquelle L'on ne pent distinguer que les deux premieres Lettres Le.

Signatures :—Beauharnois, Le marquis de Crisassy, De Ramezay, le marquis de la grois, Joseph Annibal, huguet, et Chambalon, notaire, avec paraphe.



C'est Joseph-Edmond Roy, notaire, historien, de Levis, qui m'a procuré ce testament, ainsi que le *fac-simile* des signatures au bas du dit testament.

B. SUIVE.



### TREASURE TROVE.

The discovery recently made by Mr. L. W. Sicotte, Clerk of the Crown and Peace, of this city, of paper money issued by certain Montreal merchants before the founding of Canadian banks, is quite a revelation to us and cannot be passed over without mention.

It is known to all those that devote themselves to the study of the history of this country, that before the Conquest, under the French *regime*, there existed what was called *carte-mannaie* or card money; but it is almost unknown that after the Conquest, some Montreal merchants circulated notes called *pitons* in order to replace coin, which was very scarce at that time. The series found by Mr. Sicotte, is composed of four sets: 15 *sols*, 30 *sols*, 3 *livres* and 6 *livres*, and are in French as follows:—

*Montreal, 1re Mai, 1790.*

*Livres 6 ancien cours :*

*A vue, nous payerons au Porteur du present, la somme de six livres ancien cours de la Province.*

No. 116.

DOBIE & BADGLEY.

Mr. Dobie was a Montreal merchant in 1763, at the time of the surrender of Canada, and Mr. Badgley was the father of the late Mr. Justice Badgley, who died about two years ago.

Mr. Sicotte also has a cheque on the Manufacturers' and Mechanics Bank for \$50, signed by James L. Allen, 29th December, 1818, and some others of the Bank of Canada, before its amalgamation with the Bank of Montreal.

**THE MILLING ON A COIN.**

*From the San Francisco Chronicle*

What is the "milling" on a dollar or other coin? There is a popular belief that the corrugations on the rim of a dollar are the milling. The point happened to arise in a conversation with C. M. Gorham, coiner at the Mint, the other day. Mr. Gorham picked up a "blank," a round piece of plain silver cut out of a bar. It had gone through one machine, which had slightly rounded the edges. The blank was dropped into a milling machine, and when it came out a second or two later the rim was flat and the edges of the rim were raised a little above the level of the sides. The "milling" is this plain raised rim, without reference to any corrugations anywhere. The purpose of the milling is to protect the surface of the sides from wear. The milled blank was dropped into a stamping machine, from which it came a perfect dollar. While in the machine the piece dropped into a corrugated collar, and the piece expanding under great pressure, the rim was forced into the corrugations and became similarly corrugated. These parallel notches or corrugations on the edge, which are generally erroneously called the milling, constitute the reeding.

**REVIEW.**

*The Coins and Tokens of the Possessions and Colonies of the British Empire*, by James Atkins, London, 1889.—This is a beautifully printed work of 400 pages, published by Bernard Quaritch, in which are described the coins of the British Dominions outside of the three Kingdoms. It fills a long-felt want among collectors of colonial coins, bringing the issues for the widely separated Colonial Empire into one compact volume. The well executed illustrations, although hardly sufficient, are a great help in a work of the kind. The Hanovarian coins should have been left out, for Hanover, as part of the German Confederacy, never was a British possession, although, for a time, the same monarch ruled over both. The Anglo-Callic coins, of Mediaeval times, might far better have been introduced.

But what interests us most is that portion relating to Canada and Newfoundland, as we are not in a position to speak with authority regarding other portions of the world. An utter want of arrangement mars its usefulness, while all the mistakes of his predecessors, with many others, are to be found in the book. Mr. Atkins evidently had not collected Canadian coins, or his collection was so limited, that it was no help to him in correcting his proofs. We will not say much about the errors of omission, which are numerous, but confine ourselves to those of commission, for it is better that a collector should find a coin not described in his favorite work of reference, than that he should spend his time searching for a myth carefully described therein, or for an apparent variety as shown by a slight error in the description.

The list of errors is so long that we almost shrink from publishing, but, as some of these come down from Christmas, through Sandham and Le Roux, we think it well to place on record a list of corrections that some at least may be saved the trouble of looking for what does not exist.

We may quote as our authority, the Mint Reports, old documents, and some of the most complete collections to which we have access.

## CORRECTIONS.

## PAGE 267.

- 1 No. 5. Two dollar pieces were not struck for Newfoundland in 1873.
- 2 " 6. No two dollar pieces were struck in 1874.
- 3 " 7. No two dollar pieces were struck in 1876.
- 4 The issue of half dollars during 1874 should be mentioned. It was the only coin struck for Newfoundland during that year.

## PAGE 268.

- 5 No. 18. This coin should be described with the letter H under the date.
- 6 " 24. There was no issue of 20 cent pieces in 1874.
- 7 " 28. The letter H under the date should be mentioned.
- 8 " 34. No ten cent pieces were issued in 1874

## PAGE 269.

- 9 No. 37. No ten cent pieces were issued in 1881.

- 10 No. 38 The letter H under the date should be mentioned.  
 11 " 44. No five cent pieces were issued in 1884.  
 12 " 48. The letter H under the date should be mentioned.

PAGE 270.

- 13 No. 59. There is no coin of Rutherford Brothers, Harbour Grace, without date.

PAGE 271.

- 14 " 62. The obverse of this coin should read: PETER | M'AUS-  
 LANE | ST. JOHNS | NEWFOUNDLAND.

PAGE 273.

- 15 No. 3. The name should be PURVES not "PURVIS."  
 16 " 4. This coin should have on the obverse, N. S., after  
 HALIFAX. .  
 17 " 5. This should be STEAM SHIP not "STEAM BOAT." It in-  
 variably occurs in copper, not in brass, and is now  
 very common.

PAGE 274.

- 18 No. 8. This should be described as a large building, not  
 house, as the Government offices are represented  
 on the coin; only one variety is known but there  
 are two of the following, No. 9.  
 19 " 11. The three varieties of this token differ in the busts on  
 the obverse, not in the ships on the reverse.  
 20 " 13. The only appreciable differences in specimens of this  
 coin is that the barbs of the arrows are faint in some  
 showing that the dies have been worn.

PAGE 275.

- 21 No. 18. No pennies were struck for Nova Scotia in 1823.

PAGE 276.

- 22 " 34. There are no half cents of 1862.  
 23 The pattern cent and half cents of 1861 have larger,  
 not smaller, letters on the obverse.

PAGE 279.

- 24 No. 10. There are no half cents for New Brunswick dated  
 1864.

- 25 " 11. Should be ST JOHN, not ST JOHNS.  
 26 " 12. Should be F. M<sup>C</sup>DERMOTT. not "E. M<sup>C</sup>DERMOTT;"  
 and S<sup>T</sup>. JOHN. not "ST. JOHNS."

PAGE 281.

- 27 The title should be Prince Edward Island not "Edward's."

PAGE 286.

- 28 No. 2. There are also fifty cent pieces of 1871 with the letter  
 H under the tie of the wreath.  
 29 " 4. No fifty cent pieces of 1872 are found without the H.  
 30 " 5. Fifty cent pieces were not struck in 1873.  
 31 " 6. " " " " " " 1874.  
 32 " 7. " " " " " " 1875.  
 33 " 8. " " " " " " 1880.  
 34 " 10. " " " " " " 1882.  
 35 " 11. " " " " " " 1884.  
 36 " 12. " " " " " " 1885.  
 37 " 13. " " " " " " 1886.  
 38 " 14. " " " " " " 1887.

PAGE 287.

- 39 No. 16. Twenty-five cent pieces of 1871 were also struck with  
 the letter H under the tie.  
 40 " 18. No twenty-five cent pieces of 1872 were struck with-  
 out the H.  
 41 " 19. No twenty-five cent pieces were struck in 1873.  
 42 There should be mentioned twenty-five cent pieces  
 of 1883.  
 43 " 25. No twenty-five cent pieces were struck in 1884.

PAGE 288.

- 44 No. 32. Ten cent pieces of 1871 were also struck with the H.  
 45 " 34. All ten cent pieces struck in 1872 have the letter H.  
 46 " 35. There are no ten cent pieces of 1873.  
 47 The ten cent pieces of 1883 should be mentioned.

PAGE 289.

- 48 No. 49. All the five cent pieces struck for circulation in 1872  
 have the letter H.  
 49 " 50. No five cent pieces were struck in 1873.

- 50 The five cent pieces struck in 1883 should be mentioned.
- 51 " 63 The head of the Queen on the cents of 1876, and succeeding dates, is coroneted, not "laureated."
- PAGE 290.
- 52 No. 67. No cents occur with the date 1885.
- 53 " 72. This should read SETTLEMENT not "SETTLEMENTS." The children are presented to the Goddess of Liberty not "to a bishop."
- PAGE 291.
- 54 No. 73. This coin does not exist.
- 55 " 75. There are only two varieties of the "Vexator" described under 74 and 75, therefore the "two other varieties" do not exist.
- 56 " 77. This should be MONTREAL not "UPPER TOWN | QUEBEC."
- 57 " 78. This should read H. GAGNON & CIE., not "CIE."
- 58 " 79. There should be no apostrophe in DOREURS.
- PAGE 292.
- 59 No. 84. This should read BROOK not "BROCK."
- PAGE 293.
- 60 No. 86. This should read OCT. SE and UP; not "OCT.", "SIR" and "UP" none of the two or three varieties of this token read "BOOK."
- 61 " 93. There is only one variety of this date, but two of 1823.
- PAGE 294.
- 62 No. 95. This should be LESSIE not "LESLIE."
- 63 " 96. " " " " "
- 64 " 100. This should read &. &. & ; not "&c. &c. &c."
- PAGES 297 and 298.
- 65 Nos. 109 to 149. The descriptions of the reverses are wanting in so many, that it is impossible to eliminate from Mr. Atkins' list, those that do not really exist. He describes 41 varieties, while the most complete collection known contains only 38. And one of these was unknown when Dr. Le Roux's work was pub-

lished. That would leave four here mentioned that do not exist. He describes two with 35 leaves in the wreath, such coins are unknown to collectors here, if these *sous* were divided by some form of grouping, the work would be of much greater assistance to collectors.

## PAGE 299.

- 66 No. 150. This should be, Arms of the City of Montreal, not "of Canada."  
 67 " 151. This should read BANQUE, NOT "BANK."  
 68 " 158. The Bank of Montreal with the reverse dated 1837, and Bank building does not exist. A mule, dated 1837, with City Bank on ribbon, is frequently met with.  
 69 " 160. No penny was issued with the date 1844.

## PAGE 302.

- 70 " 178. This should be LAUZON NOT "LAWSON."

## PAGE 303.

- 71 " 185. This is the reverse of No. 184, and, therefore, should not be numbered.  
 72 There are twelve varieties of the Porteous Bridge tokens. The four with the obverse beginning DE LACHESNAYE, have been omitted.  
 73 No. 189. This should be, GOOD FOR ONE COPY EVENING GLOBE. It is in white metal, bronzed, not "BRASS."

## PAGE 304.

- 74 No. 195. This coin is unknown in Canada.  
 75 Nearly every new book adds one or two of the "Provincial Tokens" to the list of *Canadian doubtfuls*, this work exceeds any so far, in the number thus added, many of these are Irish, which may be found enumerated in Lindsay and Batty.



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 PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.
 

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The stated monthly meetings of the Society have been held, with a regular attendance of members, which has been very gratifying, and the thanks of the members of the Society, to those gentlemen who have so hospitably welcomed them to their houses, are here recorded; his Hon. Judge Baby, the Hon. Senator Murphy, Messrs. Chas. Hart, J. A. U. Beaudry, and J. B. Learmont, have, in succession, invited the members to meet at their residences, and this has led to a marked improvement in the character of the meetings, not only in a social point of view, but an increased interest in the work of the Society, through the fact of their valuable collections of books and other treasures being freely placed on exhibition.

At the monthly meeting held in October last, a number of donations of pamphlets and exchanges were received and some interesting exhibits made. Among others may be noted:—

31 Coins of the EMPEROR TRAJAN, by Mr. R. W. McLachlan.

A BEAVER CLUB GOLD MEDAL (1785), by Mr. W. L. Bastien.

A set of CUVILLIER PAPER MONEY (1837), by Mr. J. A. U. Beaudry.

Mr. Lighthall's proposal to erect Historical Tablets, to commemorate events in the history of Montreal, was referred to the Council.

Upon motion of Mr. De Lery MacDonald, seconded by Dr. Beaudry, it was resolved to present an address of welcome to H. R. H. the Comte de Paris, as representing the monarchs who presided over the foundation of Canada. Hon. Judge Baby, Hon. Senator Murphy, Dr. Beaudry, and Mr. MacDonald were appointed a Committee to draft and present the address.

A paper was read by Mr. McLachlan on "The Statistics of the Coinage struck for the Dominion of Canada, embracing its separate provinces and Newfoundland.—1858-1890."

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. McLachlan, and the paper was ordered to be printed in the Journal of the Society.



The monthly meeting, for November, was held at the residence of Hon. Senator Murphy. The President—Hon. Judge Baby—reported the presentation of the address to the Comte de Paris, by the Committee appointed, on the 25th October, and the courteous reception by the Comte, who granted them a private audience.

Several donations and exhibits were submitted to the meeting, including :

Two iron "studs," found in an excavation for a drain on St. Paul street—they probably dated back to the *ancien regime*. Exhibited by Mr. H. T. Martin.

An illuminated parchment letter of 1791, signed by Joannes Rondivelli, Episcopus. Exhibited by Mr. J. B. Learmont.

Hon. Judge Baby exhibited an "*Arret de Conseil du Roi*," relative to the liquidating of the debts of Canada—1764.

Mr. Lighthall showed a photograph of the life size oil painting of the Hon. Peter Schuyler.

A vote of thanks was carried to the Viscount de la Barthe for his donation of a large enamelled tablet, commemorating the discovery of Canada by Jacques Cartier—1534-35; and a Committee was appointed, with instructions to place the tablet, if possible, on one of the buildings on Jacques Cartier square.

Mr. Lighthall explained at length his proposal to erect a number of tablets in different parts of the city, commemorative of historical events connected with the various localities suggested; a Committee was appointed to co-operate with Mr. Lighthall in carrying the proposal into effect.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to the Natural History Society, the willingness of the members of the N. and A. Society to co-operate with them, in the reception of the Royal Society of Canada, on the occasion of their visit to Montreal in May, 1891.

Mr. R. C. Lyman exhibited several photographs of the old Fort at Ile aux Noix, with explanatory notes from an article on the subject which he was preparing for publication in the *Dominion Illustrated*.

The annual meeting was held on December 16th, 1890, when, after routine business, and the reception of several donations,

and the exhibition of a number of old documents by M. de Beaujeu, the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen as the office-bearers for the coming year :

PRESIDENT,

Hon. Judge Baby.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

Hon. Edward Murphy and Mr. Chas. T. Hart.

TREASURER,

Mr. R. C. Lyman.

CURATOR,

Mr. J. A. U. Beaudry.

SECRETARY,

Mr. A. C. De Lery MacDonald.

*(The foregoing were all re-elections.)*

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

Mr. M. de Beaujeu

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY,

Messrs. H. Mott, W. L. Bastien, R. W. McLachlan, J. B. Learmont, and M. de Beaujeu.

EDITING COMMITTEE,

Hon. Judge Baby, Viscount de La. Barthe, Messrs. H. Mott, and R. W. McLachlan.

The ordinary monthly meeting was held on the 20th January, 1891, at which 16 members were present.

Mr. R. C. Lyman exhibited a book bearing the autograph of W. Lyon Mackenzie.

Mr. Learmont exhibited an autograph letter of Daniel O'Connell.

Mr. H. T. Martin showed a full set of a new issue of Japanese silver coins ; also a sheet of cuts of various war medals, and a number of proofs from a lot of wood cuts of views of Old Montreal.

Mr. Lighthall reported that at a meeting of the subscribers to the proposed "Historical Tablets," it had been resolved that the carrying out of the project be entrusted to the N. and A. Society, and the President had accepted the same on behalf of the Society.

## ORIGINAL CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

In the *New York Albion*, for 1836, appeared our charming *chanson*, "*A la claire fontaine*," under the above heading, with the music, and the affix, "not before published," and I have had the good fortune to stumble over what was said of it, at the time of publication, by one of the Scotch Reviews :

"Fair and gentle reader ! To thee we dedicate one of the simplest, and, permit us to add, one of the sweetest pieces of melody to be met with in the long and varied catalogue of song. It is a Canadian canoe-song, one of the thousand-and-one melodious effusions with which the Canadian *voyageurs* are wont to beguile their tedious and fatiguing progresses along the countless streams which separate the hyperborean haunts of the rich fur-clad inhabitants of the forest from the abodes of fur-covering man.

Thou art, doubtless, acquainted, fair reader, with the "Canadian Boat-Song," but when thou shalt have caught the spirit of a few of our Canadian melodies, thou wilt have but small difficulty in believing that Mr. Thomas Moore's Boat-Song, sweet though it be, is no Canadian song at all. It is the offspring—and a lovely offspring, too—of the poet's truthful fancy, based, perhaps, on the mingled recollection of many songs, but, inasmuch as it bears but faint relations to the place and circumstance of its *nom de baptême*, it must be regarded as a species of melodic-literary fraud. It professes to be a transcript of an air, the first words of which are :

Dans mon chemin j'ai rencontré  
Deux cavaliers tres bien montés,

but it would require a nice perception, indeed, to recognize the sweet and simple original in the—be it confessed—equally sweet and simple copy.

The people by whom these songs are sung, the arduous business which they prosecute, the frail vessel they navigate, the stupendous and sublime scenery in the midst of which they move, all concur to throw a charm over, and impart an interest to the Canadian *Chansons de Voyageur*, in addition to that which their

intrinsic beauty would command. On these points, fair reader, we crave to jot down a few notes.

The Canadian *voyageurs* are, perhaps, the hardest, most laborious, and, at the same time, the most cheerful and light-hearted people in his Majesty's many-climed dominions. Their business is to navigate the large birch-bark canoes of the great fur-trading company of Montreal to the interior, and return with them in the autumn of the year. Some are engaged for a period of service in the interior. In their upward voyage, the canoes are laden with blankets, rum, gunpowder, and other articles of Indian traffic. On their downward passage, they return with such furs as have been collected in situations which render Montreal a more convenient port of shipment than that of the Company on the shores of Hudson's Bay. The goods, so conveyed, are made up in packages of about 90 lbs weight—that is of a size and weight such as a man is capable of carrying over the numerous rocky portages, or carrying places, which the Canadian *voyageur* has to encounter.

In some few cases the canoes contain no lading. It is then called a Despatch Canoe. By this, however, the *voyageur* gains nothing, as what he is spared in weight, he is called upon to make up in speed. If, fair reader, thou dost not clearly understand the alternative, ask thy husband, thy brother, or thy lover, and he will explain to thee that the hard-worked *voyageur's* case is in nowise improved by the change.

Out of the twenty-four hours, the *voyageur* is expected to labor eighteen. His food is taken as he goes—fish, fowl, or flesh, just as Providence may throw in his way: and should this fail, he has a reserve supply of pemmican, or deer's flesh, prepared in a particular way of drying. His only luxury is tea, and, at times, a *coup* of rum. The former is prepared when he encamps for the night, and before he starts in the early morn, and, perchance, again when he rests in the middle of the day. With all this hard work and hard food, the *voyageur* is a happy being. Cares, he has none, except, perhaps, for a fair one left behind; so he chants his song *chemin faisant*, and this, combined with a long rest, and social pleasure, which a Canadian knows so well how to enjoy, cheers him on his weary way.

These alternatives from extreme labor to absolute inactivity, and from the perfect solitude of the lakes and rivers of the interior to social intercourse of the most cheerful kind, are not very likely to produce a sober and staid citizen. There is, however, something in the Canadian social character which appears to operate as a safeguard against all sorts of bad influences, and the *voyageur*, when he returns to his family, is not much to be distinguished from his brethren, whose travels do not generally extend beyond the neighboring parish church. There is, perhaps, a little dash of reckless gaiety in his tone and bearing, and he is somewhat too much given to *jaser*, and tell long stories when he should be in the hay-field or in the barn, but then his long stories are replete with "moving incidents," and as Baptiste is really a good-natured fellow, and for that reason a decided favourite with the women, there are always volunteers enough to share his ordinary work, the more especially as he is ever ready to repay the favour when anything requiring more than ordinary boldness, energy, and decision, is to be accomplished. A course of life which would convert an Englishman or an American into a reckless vagabond, scarcely impairs the moral character of the Canadian, and the retired *voyageur* almost invariably settles down into a most affectionate husband, a tender father, a firm and zealous friend, and a good citizen.

The birchen canoe of the native Indian is not only extremely elegant in its form, but, from its lightness and small draught of water, is especially adapted to the navigation of the shallow and rapid streams of the interior. The frame of the canoe is made of thin boards or ribs of wood about three inches broad, strengthened by longitudinal strips equally thin and light, and reaching from stem to stern, or rather from end to end, for both ends are similar. Over this framework is spread the bark of a large birch tree, with no more seams than are necessary to reduce it to the proper form. These seams are sewed with strong fibres of wood, and are rendered water-tight by a gummy resinous composition prepared for the purpose, and which the Indians and *voyageurs* always carry with them in case repairs should be requisite. The framework is strengthened and kept in shape by a strong gunwale, with cross pieces like the thwarts of a boat. No adequate idea of the shape of the canoe can be conveyed without a drawing or model. The keel-less bottom is

flat, the sides swelling, the gunwales have an indication inwards. The swelling of the sides is greatest towards the centre, gradually diminishing towards the ends, which terminates in a sort of raised prow, ornamented above-board, and at the water's edge offering the least resistance.

Such is the frail vessel, which even a rude tread would almost pierce, but in which the *voyageur* traverses a thousand streams in safety. It is thus propelled: Each canoe-man is equipped with a light paddle about four feet and a half in length, half of which is handle and the other half blade. The width of the blade varies in different tribes from five inches to about three inches and a half. The narrow paddle is preferred by the North-west *voyageurs*, as it is much less fatiguing, and, therefore, better adapted to long journeys and continuous work. The paddle is held perpendicularly, so as to have a perfect hold on the water, and a sharp stroke simultaneously given with all the paddles, causes the canoe literally to leap over the surface of the water. The course of the canoe is directed by a steersman, who makes use of a paddle; and the man in the head of the canoe occasionally aids the steersman by means of a well-timed stroke. Indeed, in case of danger, such as a sunken rock, or a floating log, it is the head paddle which averts it. By means of a sharp lateral stroke, the course of the canoe may be suddenly altered by a considerable angle, and if the headman inclines the head considerably one way—say to the left—while the steersman at the same time draws the stern to the right, the canoe may be suddenly brought to a right angle with its course, and be shot far a-head of impending danger.

In proceeding up stream these dangers are not great, inasmuch as a mere cessation of the simultaneous stroke, on a signal from the man at the head, causes the canoe to lose its way; it is in descending, that is, in shooting the rapids, that the danger lies. Here a dead silence is preserved; the *voyageurs* cease to ply their paddles; the headman is all vigilance; on him the steersman's eye is firmly fixed, in readiness to obey his slightest sign by a light stroke of the paddle on one side or the other. The danger being past, a long shrill Indian shout or yell, exhilarating and spirit-stirring to a degree inconceivable to those who have not heard it, bursts from the united voices of the *voyageurs*. Before the shout has ceased the

best voice has already commenced his song; and, as the shout with its echoes dies away, the last couplet of the verse—

J'ai trouvé l'eau si belle  
Que je m'y suis baigné—

becomes distinct. Immediately the united chorus—

Il y a long tems que je l'aime.  
Jamais je ne t'oublierais—

seems to bound over the surface of the now smooth waters, and is sent back by reiterated echoes from the circumjacent rocks and hills. Thus passes song after song, giving measure to the stroke of the paddle, until some new danger again requires silence.

In the upward voyage the song is often interrupted by the severity of the labor and the necessity of making a portage. Where the stream becomes too rapid for the use of the paddle, poles, shod with iron, are resorted to. With these the canoe is pushed close in shore against the stream. Occasionally, a rope is carried ashore, and some, or all, of the men, except two, by whom the course is directed with poles, tow the canoe up stream. When neither poles nor tow-rope can be rendered available, the *portage* must be made. The *portage* is made either to pass a waterfall or impracticable rapid, to get from one river to another, or to save, by crossing a small neck of land, a long bend of the river. The process is to unload the canoe, paddles and lading, and carry them to the spot where the navigation again becomes practicable. The large canoes are carried by resting the gunwale on the shoulders of as many men as are necessary to carry it. The rest charge themselves with baggage and merchandise, carrying their burthens with a strap across the forehead as undertakers carry a coffin. A small canoe, capable of carrying five persons with their blankets, guns and usual equipments, can be carried by one man.

The magnificent scenery in the midst of which the canoe pursues its way, can be approximately, though not perfectly, pictured to a Scottish reader, by a reference to his own mountain streams and torrents, his rocks, and (*cidevant*), pineclad hills. In the countries lying north and west of Canada, there is, as yet, no vestige of the hand of man, everything appears fresh from the hand of nature, and all is magnificence and sublimity. The immense rivers, which have no parallel in Europe, occasionally expand into inland seas, subject

to be torn, like other seas, by violent tempests, and again contracting their waters, are precipitated over a shallow and rocky bed, until the gradually widening banks once more permit them to pursue a more tranquil course.

On the shore, and in the numerous beautiful—some alluvial, and some rocky— islands which diversify without interrupting the onward course of the waters, all is forest—gigantic, primeval forest. In the autumn of the year, the diversified appearance of the woods brightens the beauty of the scenery, to an extent not to be conceived by those who are not familiar with it. The dark Canadian pine, the magnificent cedar, the sturdy oak, the graceful birch, mingle their numerous hues with the crimson leaf\* of the maple, and produce an effect which but few painters would dare to grapple with, but which would have filled even John Mallard Turner with wonder and delight.

Such are the circumstances in the midst of which these songs are sung. They are extremely numerous, some prevailing in one locality, some in another. Some are of a sprightly tone, and some few, but very few, are of a character not adapted to British taste—that is, as far as our sense of propriety is concerned. Most of them, however, tell of love and regrets, with all the melancholy sweetness of the *Vieux Gaulois*."

"Should the present specimen meet with the acceptance of the public, we may, from time to time, extract others from our stores;" but a diligent search has failed to find any further publication of the pleasing *chansons*.

For the benefit of all future critics of our Canadian songs, they may be referred to "SONGS OF OLD CANADA," translated by William McLennan, which can only be read with pleasure and delight; and especially to the note on this very song. "This charming love story, with its attractive air, rightly leads our Canadian songs. It apparently enjoyed as great a popularity in France as here, for Dr. Larue cites no less than five variations of the words. Its origin is unknown, but it is sung in Normandy, Brittany, and Franche-Comté.

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\*The maple leaves become crimson with the first frost, and the hills, which are covered with them, present a singularly beautiful appearance.



“A few years ago,” Dr. Larue says, “our *Claire Fontaine*, “with its own Canadian air, was rendered in one of the principal “theatres of Paris and obtained an immense success.”

ED. CAN. ANTIQUARIAN.



### NOT A POPULAR COIN.

There is one unpopular coin issued in the United States. It is the half dollar, and it has a tendency to work its way back into the Treasury vaults, where it is not wanted. As money, nobody objects to the half, but the popular fancy is for the same value in another form. That is, the average citizen prefers to have two quarters. They are a trifle more convenient. If he wants to pay out half a dollar he can use the half or the two quarters with equal convenience, but if 25c is to be paid out the quarter is far the handier coin.

This may not seem to be a very important matter, but it counts in the long run. Little by little the halves find their way back to the Government vaults, and there they stay, like poor relations. In fact, so far as coming home in disgrace goes, the half dollar is the Prodigal Son of the Mints.

A very large proportion of the \$20,000,000 of fractional silver on hand at Washington is made up of halves. This is the lot which Secretary Foster was so anxious to get rid of, and about which he talked with the New York bankers when he made his visit there. Nobody then manifested any wild desire to take the Secretary's load off his shoulders.

It is probable that a good many of the halves stored up in Washington will be recoined into quarters and dimes. In that way they will be more convenient for popular use. And Mr. Foster will sleep more comfortably o' nights—which will be a good thing and a benefit all around.

Of course, lots of halves are used and will continue to be used. Their coinage will be kept up and nobody will have any more difficulty in getting them than usual. But the proportion of other coins will be increased because the people like them better.

The New York Sub-Treasury has its share of halves on hand, and the other day it tried to work off some of them. It was a day when pension checks were being paid, and nearly every one was cashed partly in halves. Before the close of the day a good many of the halves were back in the Sub-Treasury. And they are there yet.



### DOGS ON COINS.



There is an important group of about forty coins containing outlines of dogs, which deserve careful study. The interest of some of them is mainly mythical, as with Laelaps, the hound of Actæon, presented to Cephalos by Procris; or with the dog of Segeste, which symbolized the river Crimisis. But there are enough to show how extensive were the operations of the dog fancier in early times. The coins afford no evidence of the development of a spaniel, there being no example of a pendulous ear, or of a mastiff, though bulldogs were, undoubtedly, known in the arenas of Imperial Rome. But they prove conclusively—what is shown, indeed, by the less artistic products of Egyptian pictography—that the ancients had four kinds of dogs—the wolf dog, the hound, the greyhound, and the terrier. The Umbrians had their wolf hounds, the Apulians of Asculum their greyhounds, the more rugged hunters of the Tuscan forests their fox dogs. The favorite dog of Artemis Laphria, as on coins of Patrae and Sparta, was a greyhound, while Actæon's dogs must have been half-breed deerhounds. Rhegium, if coins may be trusted, had its sheep dogs; the Macedonian city of Mende its terriers, and Cumæ, just above the Bay of Naples, to which all the luxuries of the ancient world were brought, its poodles. Further pursuit of this line of enquiry would probably throw some useful light upon the direction of canine domestication.—*Chambers' Journal.*

