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THE DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF THE OLD  
RECOLLET CONVENT.

QUEBEC, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1796,

(FROM QUEBEC PAST AND PRESENT, [*In press*] by J. M. LeMOINE.)

**S**OME eighty years ago, on the site on which was erected at the beginning of the century, the English Cathedral, there stood a rude and vast quadrangular building, with a court, and a well stocked orchard. In 1776, it had been used to immure the American prisoners, made at Montgomery and Arnold's unlucky assault on Quebec.

In it, Mr. (afterwards Judge) John Joseph Henry, had spent, as appears by his Journal, some dreary days, during that memorable winter. It was a monastery of the order of St. Francis. The superior—a well known, witty, jovial and eccentric personage—Father DeBerrey, had more than once dined and wired His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, when stationed here with his Regiment, in 1791-3.

On a calm warm September afternoon, in 1796, the fire drum all at once began to beat frantically in the Upper Town, the *tocsin* to sound from the R. C. Cathedral ; soon a dense smoke enveloped the stables of Judge Dunn's \* house in Saint Louis Street. A small coloured boy named Michel, the Judge's servant, had fired off a toy cannon in the stable, and accidentally set fire to it. A violent south-west wind springing up at that moment, burning fragments were deposited as far as the Ursuline Convent, the roof of which at three distinct times ignited—a drought of six weeks duration had dried up the shingles like chips. Suddenly the cry arose, that the steeple of the old Recollet Convent on Garden Street, was in a blaze, a burning shingle carried on the wings of the hurricane, had lodged in the belfry. Father DeBerrey, the R. C. Clergy, the citizens, all worked with a will to stay the destroyer, all worked in vain.

The fiery demon gaining strength as it ran along, bore clouds of cinders, ignited paper, charred shingles, all over the Lower Town ; H. M's Frigate Pallas, Captain Lord Cochrane, moored in the stream, opposite Cape Diamond, fearing the fiery cloud should set her rigging on fire, slipped her cable, and drifted below the harbour with the ebb tide. The old pile was destroyed, the poor monks, rendered homeless : they dispersed.

Father DeBerrey found shelter under the hospitable roof of Mr. Francis Duval in St. Louis Street. Frère Marc, settled at St. Thomas, and earned for forty years his livelihood by mending clocks. Frère Louis, opened a school in St. Vallier Street, where his lovely flower garden and luscious plums soon became famous. Another Frère became a mariner between Montreal and Quebec. There were also Frère Bernard and Frère Bernardin. The Government on

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\* Mr. DeGaspe in his *Memoirs* describes the house in St. Louis Street as belonging to Judge Monk, whilst Deputy Commissary General Thompson states it was owned by Judge Dunn.

the dispersion of the Order, took possession of the vacant lot. Such was the melancholy end of the old Franciscan Monastery, on Garden Street, by fire, on the 6th September, 1796.

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## ON THE DEATH OF GENERAL WOLFE.

*From the Pennsylvania Gazette, October 25, 1760. (Published by B. Franklin.)*

What honours, Wolfe, should thy brave brows adorn?  
 Shall fading wreaths, by other heroes worn?  
 Not Breathing marble, nor enlivening brass,  
 Though there thy manly form the eye may trace;  
 Not columns stately rising from the plain,  
 To tell the victories which thy arms did gain?  
 Not generous praise, which tuneful bards convey,  
 Which lasts when other monuments decay,  
 Though many a British bard thy fall shall mourn,  
 And sing melodious dirges o'er thy urn;  
 No works of mortal hand, or mortal wit  
 Thy virtues equal, or thy fame befit:  
 Heaven saw, and straight prepared a nobler prize,  
 And to receive it snatch'd thee to the skies.

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## CHAMPLAIN'S TOMB.



INGULARLY enough, as we all know, the last resting place of the venerable Founder of Quebec, has been a mystery for more than two hundred years. Samuel de Champlain, died at the Castle of St. Louis, in Quebec, on Christmas day, 1635. Though his remains were followed to their last abode by all the Quebecers of the day, and though Father Le Jeune pronounced his "Oraison Funebre," no written record has yet turned up to fix the spot of his sepulture, with certainty.

In 1866, two *litterateur* of note in Quebec, Messrs. Laverdière, the annotator of Champlain's Works, and Casgrain, published a *brochure* with plates, &c., to prove, that from several texts and from recent excavations, in the Lower Town, at the head of Champlain street, there was no doubt that the vault discovered in 1854, by Mr. H. O'Donnell, Engineer of the City Water Works, contained the tomb of Champlain, that in fact it was the "sepulcre particulier" mentioned in the *Relations des Jesuits* for 1642.

The matter would not have been sufficiently ventilated, had not a very lively controversy sprung up between Messrs. Laverdière and Casgrain on one side, and Mr. Stanislas Drapeau of the Agricultural Department, Ottawa, on the other. Mr. Drapeau, complained that Messrs. L. & C., refused to give him credit, for the *data* and information he furnished in this stirring discovery.

The historical world of Quebec, failed to find Messrs. Laverdière and Casgrain's conclusions final, and the matter remained in abeyance, until lately. The Genealogical Society of Boston, having recently undertaken the gigantic, but very praise-worthy project of annotating, illustrating and translating in English, Champlain's voyages, wrote to the undersigned, their corresponding member in Quebec, for information touching Champlain's Tomb. Their letter having been published, brought out in the *Opinion Publique*, newspaper, of 4th November, 1875, a communication from Abbé Casgrain, stating that since the publication of his brochure in 1866, important documents which he publishes, have come in his possession; from which, it seems, his first theory, was more than doubtful. Students of history and Antiquarians are now ready when ordered to put shovel and spade in the sacred soil over shadowed by the *Chiers d'Or*, at the new Post Office, close to the Ring, and seek for vestiges of the "sepulcre particulier" and *Chapelle de Champlain* in the Upper Town.

This last theory meets with uncommon favor at present. In the *Opinion Publique* of the 25th November, another Richmond comes in the field, and though he finds fault roundly with the Abbé Casgrain in 1866, he does not yet squarely come to the point, nor favors the anxious old capital with his theory ; let us however live in hope.

From the foregoing, it will appear that our Quebec and Ottawa Antiquarians are handing round a delightfully hard nut to crack, *The discovery of Champlain's Tomb.*

J. M. LEMOINE.

Spencer Grange, near Quebec, 1st Dec.

## THE GREAT MANITOOLIN.

(From *Sketches in Canada and Rambles among the Red Men*, by Mrs. Jameson, in 1837.)



HE word Manitoolin is a corruption or frenchification of the Indian *Manitoawahning*, which signifies the "dwelling of spirits." They have given this name to a range of islands in Lake Huron, which extends from the channel of St. Mary's river nearly to Cape Hurd, a distance of about two hundred miles. Between this range of islands and the shore of the mainland, there is an archipelago, consisting of many thousand islands or islets.

The Great Manitoolin, on which I now am, is according to the last survey, ninety-three miles in length, but very narrow, and so deeply and fantastically indented with gulfs and bays, that it was supposed to consist of many distinct islands. This is the second year that the presents to the Indians have been issued on this spot. The idea of forming on the Great Manitoolin, a settlement of the Indians, and inviting those tribes scattered round the lakes to adopt it as a residence, has been for the last few years entertained by the Indian department ; I say for the last few years, because it did not originate with the present governor ; though I believe it has

his entire approbation, as a means of removing them more effectually from all contact with the white settlers. It is objected to this measure that by cutting off the Indians from agricultural pursuits and throwing them back upon their habits of hunting and fishing, it will retard their civilisation ; that removing them from the reserved land among the whites, their religious instruction will be rendered a matter of difficulty ; that the islands, being masses of barren rock, are almost incapable of cultivation ; and that they are so far north-west, that it would be difficult to raise even a little Indian Corn : and hence the plan of setting the Indians here has been termed *unjustifiable*.

It is true that the smaller islands are rocky and barren ; but the Great Manitoolin, Drummond's, and St. Joseph's are fertile. The soil on which I now tread is rich and good ; and all the experiments in cultivation already tried here have proved successful. As far as I can judge, the intentions of the government are benevolent and *justifiable*. There are a great number of Indians, Ottawas, and Pottowottomies, who receive annual presents from the British government, and are residing on the frontier of the American settlements, near Lake Michigan. These people, having disposed of their lands, know not where to go, and it is the wish of our government to assemble all those Indians who are our allies, and receive our annual presents, within the limits of the British territory—and this for reasons which certainly do appear very *reasonable* and politic.

There are three thousand seven hundred Indians, Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottowottomies, Winnebagos, and Monomies, encamped around us. The issue of the presents has just concluded, and appears to have given universal satisfaction ; yet, were you to see their trifling nature, you would wonder that they think it worth while to travel from one to five hundred miles or more to receive them ; and by an ordinance of the Indian department, every individual

must present himself *in person* to receive the allotted portion. The common equipment of each chief or warrior (that is, each man) consists of three quarters of a yard of blue cloth, three yards of linen, one blanket, half an ounce of thread, four strong needles, one comb, one awl, one butcher's knife, three pounds of tobacco, three pounds of ball, nine pounds of shot four pounds of powder, and six flints. The equipment of a woman consists of one yard and three quarters of coarse woollens, two yards and a half of printed calico, one blanket, one ounce of thread, four needles, one comb, one awl, one knife. For each child there was a portion of woollen cloth and calico. Those chiefs who had been wounded in battle, or had extraordinary claims, had some little articles in extra quantity, and a gay shawl or handkerchief. To each principal chief of a tribe, the allotted portion of goods for his tribe was given, and he made the distribution to his people individually ; and such a thing as injustice or partiality on one hand, or a murmur of dissatisfaction on the other, seemed equally unknown. There were, besides, extra presents of flags, medals, chiefs' guns, rifles, trinkets, brass kettles, the choice and distribution of which were left to the superintendent, with this proviso, that the expense on the whole was never to exceed nine pounds sterling for every one hundred chiefs or warriors.

While the Indians remain on the island, which is generally about five days, they receive rations of Indian corn and tallow (fat melted down) ; with this they make a sort of soup, boiling the Indian corn till it is of the consistence of porridge,—then adding a handful of tallow and some salt, and stirring it well. Many a kettleful of this delectable mess did I see made, without feeling any temptation to taste it ; but Major Anderson says it is not so *very* bad, when a man is *very* hungry, which I am content to believe on his testimony. On this and on the fish of the bay they live while here.

As soon as the distribution of the presents was over, a grand council of all the principal chiefs was convened, that they might be informed of the will of their great father.

When all were assembled, and had seated themselves on the floor without hurry, noise, or confusion, there was a pause of solemn preparation, and then Mr. Jarvis rose and addressed them. At the end of every sentence, *As,si,ke,nack* (the Black bird), our chief interpreter here, translated the meaning to the assembly, raising his voice to a high pitch, and speaking with much oratorical emphasis, the others responding at intervals, "Ha!" but listening generally in solemn silence. This man, the Blackbird, who understands English well, is the most celebrated orator of his nation. They relate with pride that on one occasion he began a speech at sunrise, and that it lasted without intermission till sunset : the longest breathed of our parliament orators must yield, I think, to the Blackbird.

The address of the superintendent was in these words :—

" Children, — When your Great Father, the lieutenant-governor, parted with his Red children last year at this place, he promised again to meet them here at the council-fire, and witness in person the grand delivery of presents now just finished.

" To fulfill this engagement, your Great Father left his residence at Toronto, and proceeded on his way to the Great Manitoolin Island, as far as Lake Simcoe. At this place, a messenger, who had been dispatched from Toronto, overtook him, and informed him of the death of our Great Father, on the other side of the Great Salt Lake, and the accession of the Queen Victoria. It consequently became necessary for your Great Father, the lieutenant-governor, to return to the seat of his government. and hold a council with his chief men.

" Children ! — Your Great Father, the lieutenant-governor, has deputed me to express to you his regret and dis-



sapointment at being thus unexpectedly deprived of the pleasure which he had promised to himself, in again seeing all his Red children, and in taking by the hand the chiefs and warriors of the numerous tribes now here assembled.

“ Children ! — I am now to communicate to you a matter in which many of you are deeply interested. Listen with attention, and bear well in mind what I say to you.

“ Children ! — You Great Father the King had determined that presents should be continued to be given to all Indians resident in the Canadas.

“ But presents will be given to Indians residing in the United States only for three years, including the present delivery.

“ Children ! — The reasons why presents will not be continued to the Indians residing in the United States, I will explain to you.

“ First : All our countrymen who resided in the United States forfeited their claim to protection from the British government, from the moment their Great Father the King lost possession of that country. Consequently the Indians have no right to expect that their Great Father will continue to them what he does not continue to his own white children.

“ Secondly : The Indians of the United States, who served in the late war, have already received from the British government more than has been received by the soldiers of their Great Father, who have fought for him for twenty years.

“ Thirdly : Among the rules which civilised nations are bound to attend to, there is one which forbids your Great Father to give arms and ammunition to Indians of the United States, who are fighting against the government under which they live.

“ Fourthly : The people of England have, through their representatives in the great council of the nation, uttered

great complaints at the expense attendant upon a continuation of the expenditure of so large a sum of money upon Indian presents.

“But Children! let it be distinctly understood, that the British government has not come to a determination to cease to give presents to the Indians of the United States. On the contrary, the government of your Great Father will be most happy to do so, provided they live in the British empire. Therefore, although your Great Father is willing that his Red children should all become permanent settlers in the island, it matters not in what part of the British empire they reside. They may go across the Great Salt Lake to the country of their Great Father the King, and there reside, and there receive their presents; or they may remove to any part of the provinces of Upper or Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or any other British Colony, and yet receive them. But they cannot and must not expect to receive them after the end of three years, if they continue to reside within the limits of the United States.

“Children! — The Long Knives have complained (and with justice too) that your Great Father, whilst he is at peace with them, has supplied his Red children residing in their country, with whom the Long Knives are at war, with guns and powder and ball.

“Children! — This, I repeat to you, is against the rules of civilized nations, and if continued, will bring on war between your Great Father and the Long Knives.

“Children! — You must therefore come and live under the protection of your Great Father, or renounce the advantage which you have so long enjoyed, of annually receiving valuable presents from him.

“Children! — I have one thing more to observe to you. There are many clergymen constantly visiting you for the avowed purpose of instructing you in religious principles. Listen to them with attention when they talk to you on that

subject ; but at the same time keep always in view, and bear it well in your minds, that they have nothing whatever to do with your temporal affairs. Your Great Father who lives across the Great Salt Lake is your guardian and protector, and he only. He has relinquished his claim to this large and beautiful island, on which we are assembled, in order that you may have a home of your own quite separate from his white children. The soil is good, and the waters which surround the shores of this island are abundantly supplied with the finest fish. If you cultivate the soil with only moderate industry, and exert yourselves to obtain fish, you can never want, and your Great Father will continue to bestow annually on all those who permanently reside here, or in any part of his dominions, valuable presents, and will from time to time visit you at this island, to behold your improvements.

“ Children! — Your Great Father, the lieutenant-governor, as a token of the above declaration, transmits to the Indians a silk British flag, which represents the British empire, within this flag, and immediately under the symbol of the British crown, are delineated a British lion and a beaver ; by which is designated that the British people and the Indians, the former being represented by the lion and the latter by the beaver, are and will be alike regarded by their sovereign, so long as their figures are imprinted on the British flag, or, in other words, so long as they continue to inhabit the British empire !

“ Children ! — This flag is now yours. But it is necessary that some one tribe should take charge of it, in order that it may be exhibited in this island on all occasions, when your Great Father either visits or bestows presents on his Red children. Choose, therefore, from among you, the tribe to which you are willing to intrust it for safe keeping, and remember to have it with you when we next meet again at this place.

"Children! — I bid you farewell. But before we part, let me express to you the high satisfaction I feel at witnessing the quiet, sober, and orderly conduct which has prevailed in the camp since my arrival. There are assembled here upwards of three thousand persons, composed of different tribes. I have not seen nor heard of any wrangling or quarrelling among you; I have not seen even one man, woman, or child, in a state of intoxication.

"Children! — Let me entreat you to abstain from indulging in the use of fire-water. Let me entreat you to return immediately to your respective homes, with the presents now in your possession. Let me warn you against attempts that may be made by traders or other persons to induce you to part with your presents, in exchange for articles of little value,— Farewell."

After some deliberation among themselves, the custody of the flag was consigned to the Ottawa tribe then residing on the island, and to their principal chief, who came forward and received it with great ceremony.

There was then a distribution of extra presents, medals, silver gorgets, and amulets, to some of the chiefs and relatives of chiefs whose conduct was particularly approved, or whom it was thought expedient to gratify.

The council then broke up, and I made my way into the open air as quickly as I could.

## COINS.

BY W. STANLEY JEVONS, M.A., F.R.S.



It is clear that the metals far surpass all other substances in suitability for the purpose of circulation, and it is almost equally clear that certain metals surpass all the other metals in this respect. Of gold and silver especially we may say, with Turgot, that, by the nature of things, they are constituted

the universal money independently of all convention and law. Even if the art of coining had never been invented, gold and silver would probably have formed the currency of the world ; but we have now to consider how, by shaping weighed pieces of these metals into coins, we can make use of their valuable properties to the greatest advantage.

The primitive mode of circulating the metals, indeed, was simply that of buying and selling them against other commodities, the weights or portions being rudely estimated. Some of the earliest specimens of money consist of the *aes-rude*, or rough, shapeless lumps of native copper employed as money by the ancient Etruscans. In the Museum of the Archiginnasio at Bologna may be seen the skeleton of an Etruscan, half embedded in earth, with the piece of rough copper yet within the grasp of the bony hand, placed there to meet the demands of Charon. Pliny, moreover, tells us that, before the time Servius Tullius, copper was circulated in the rude state. Afterwards copper, brass, or iron were, it is probable, employed in the form of small bars or spikes, and the name of the Greek unit of value, *drachma*, is supposed to have been derived from the fact that six of these metal spikes could be grasped in the hand, each piece being called an *obolus*. Such is supposed to have been the first system of money which was passed purely by *tale*, or number of pieces.

Gold is most readily obtained from alluvial deposits, and then has the form of grains or dust. Hence this is the primitive form of gold money. The ancient Peruvians enclosed the gold dust for the sake of security in quills, and thus passed it about more conveniently. At the gold diggings of California, Australia, or New Zealand, gold dust is to the present day sold directly against other goods by the aid of scales. The art of melting gold and silver, and fashioning them by hammer into various shapes was early invented. Even in the present day the poor Hindoo, who

has saved up a few rupees, employs a silversmith to melt them up and beat them into a simple bracelet, which he wears in the double character of an ornament and a hoard of wealth.

Similarly, the ancient Goths and Celts were accustomed to fashion gold into thick wires, which they rolled up into spiral rings and probably wore upon their fingers until the metal was wanted for trading purposes. There can be little doubt that this ring money, of which abundant specimens have been found in various parts of Europe and Asia, formed the first approximation to a coinage. In some cases the rings may have been intentionally made of equal weight ; for Cæsar speaks of the Britons as having iron rings, adjusted to a certain weight, to serve as money. In other cases the rings, or amulets, were bought and sold by aid of the balance ; and in certain Egyptian paintings men are represented as in the act of weighing rings. It is probable that the necessity for frequent weighings was avoided by making up sealed bags containing a certain weight of rings, and such perhaps are the bags of silver given by Naaman to Gehazi in the Second Book of Kings (v. 23). Ring money is said to be still current in Nubia.

Gold and silver have been fashioned into various other forms to serve as money. Thus the Siamese money consists of very small ingots or bars bent double in a peculiar manner. In Pondicherry and elsewhere gold is circulated in the form of small grains or buttons.

#### *The Invention of Coining.*

The date of the invention of coining can be assigned with some degree of probability. Coined money was clearly unknown in the Homeric times, and it was known in the time of Lycurgus. We might therefore assume, with various authorities, that it was invented in the mean time, or about 900 B.C. There is a tradition, moreover, that Pheidon, King

of Argos, first struck silver money in the Island of Ægina about 895 B.C. and the tradition is supported by the existence of small stamped ingots of silver, which have been found in Ægina. Later inquiries, however, lead to the conclusion that Pheidon lived in the middle of the eighth century B.C., and Grote has shown good reasons for believing that what he did accomplish was done in Argos, and not in Ægina.

The mode in which the invention happened is sufficiently evident. Seals were familiarly employed in very early times, as we learn from the Egyptian paintings or the stamped bricks of Nineveh. Being employed to signify possession, or to ratify contracts, they came to indicate authority. When a ruler first undertook to certify the weights of pieces of metal, he naturally employed his seal to make the fact known, just as, at Goldsmiths' Hall, a small punch is used to certify the fineness of plate. In the earliest forms of coinage there were no attempts at so fashioning the metal that its weight could not be altered without destroying the stamp or design. The earliest coins struck, both in Lydia and in the Peloponnesus, were stamped on one side only. The Persian money, called the *lamin*, consists of a round silver wire, about six centimetres long, bent in two, and stamped on one part which is flattened for the purpose. It is probably a relic of ring money. The present circulation of China is composed to a considerable extent of the so-called Sycee silver, which consists of small shoe shaped ingots, assayed and stamped, according to some accounts, by the government.

#### *What is a Coin?*

Although, in rings, grains, or stamped ingots, we have an approximation to what we call coin, it is plain that we must do something more to make convenient money. The stamp must be so impressed as to certify, not only the fineness and the original weight, but also the absence of any subsequent alteration. To coin metal, as we now understand the art,

is to form it into flat pieces of a circular, oval, square, hexagonal, octagonal, or other regular outline, and then to impress designs from engraved dies upon both sides, and sometimes upon the edges. Not only is it very costly and difficult to counterfeit coins well executed in this manner, but the integrity of the design assures us that no owner of the coin has tampered with it. Even the amount of ordinary wear and tear, which the coin has suffered, may be rudely inferred from the sharpness or partial effacement of the designs, and the roundness of the edges. "Pieces of money," says M. Chevalier, "are ingots of which the weight and the fineness are certified." There is nothing in this definition to distinguish coins from Sycee silver, or from the ordinary stamped bars and ingots of bullion. I should prefer, therefore, to say, *coins are ingots of which the weight and fineness are certified by the integrity of designs impressed upon the surfaces of the metal.*

#### *Various Forms of Coins.*

From time to time coins have been manufactured in very many forms, although circular coins vastly predominate in number. Among the innumerable issues of the German states may be found octagonal and hexagonal coins. A singular square coin, with a circular impress in the centre, was issued from Salzburg by Rudbert in 1513. Siege-pieces have been issued in England and elsewhere in the form of squares, lozenges, etc. Some of the most extraordinary specimens of money ever used are the large plates of pure copper which circulated in Sweden in the eighteenth century. These were about three-eighths of an inch in thickness, and varied in size, the half-daler being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, and the two-daler piece as much as  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds in weight. As the whole surface could not be covered with a design, a circular impress was struck near to each corner, and one in the centre, so as to render alteration as difficult as possible.



Among Oriental nations the shapes of coins are still more curious. In Japan, the principal part of the circulation consists of silver *itsibus*, which are oblong, flat pieces of silver, covered on both sides with designs and legends, the characters being partly in relief and partly incised. The smaller silver coins have a similar form. Among the minor Japanese coins are found large, oval, moulded pieces of copper or mixed metal, each with a square hold in the centre. The Chinese *cash* are well known to be round discs of a kind of brass, with a square hole in the centre to allow of their being strung together. The coins of Formosa are similar, except that they are much larger and thicker. All the copper and base metal coins of China, Japan, and Formosa are distinguished by a broad flat rim, and they have characters in relief upon a sunk ground, somewhat in the manner of Boulton and Watt's copper pence. They are manufactured by moulding the metal, and then filing the protuberant parts smooth. Such coins stand wear, and preserve their designs better than European coins, but they are easily counterfeited.

The most singular of all coins are the scimitar-shaped pieces formerly circulated in Persia.

#### *The best Form for Coins.*

It is a matter of considerable importance to devise the best possible form for coins, and the best mode of striking them. The use of money creates, as it were, an artificial crime of false coining, and so great is the temptation to engage in this illicit art that no penalty is sufficient to repress it, as the experience of two thousand years sufficiently proves. Thousands of persons have suffered death, and all the penalties of treason have been enforced without effect. Ruding is then unquestionably right in saying, that our efforts should be directed not so much to the punishment of the crime, as to its prevention by improvements in the art of coining.

We must strike our coins so perfectly that successful imitation or alteration shall be out of the question.

There are four principal objects at which we should aim in deciding upon the exact design for a coin.

1. To prevent counterfeiting.
2. To prevent the fraudulent removal of metal from the coin.
3. To reduce the loss of metal by legitimate wear and tear.
4. To make the coin an artistic and historical monument of the state issuing it, and the people using it.

For the prevention of counterfeiting, our principal resource is to render the mechanical execution of the piece as perfect as possible, and to strike it in a way which can only be accomplished with the aid of elaborate machinery. When all coins were made by casting, the false coiner could work almost as skilfully as the moneyer. Hence, in the Roman empire, it was difficult to distinguish between true and false coin. Hammered money was a great improvement on moulded money, and milled money on hammered money. The introduction of the steam coining press by Boulton and Watt was the next great improvement ; and the knee-joint press of Ulhorn and Thonnelier, now used in nearly all mints, except that on Tower Hill, forms the last advance in the mechanism for striking coin.

The utmost attention ought to be paid to the perfect execution of the milling, legend, or other design, impressed upon the edge of modern coins. This serves at once to prevent clipping or tampering with the coin, and to baffle the skill of the counterfeiter. The coins of ancient nations were issued with rough, unstamped edges, and the first coin marked with a legend on the edge was a silver coin of Charles IX. of France, issued in the year 1573. The English coinage was first grained or marked on the edge in 1658 or 1662, when the use of the mill and screw was finally established in the mint. All the larger coins now issued from

the English, and, indeed, from most other mints, bear a milled or serrated edge, produced by ridges on the internal surface of the collar which holds the coin when being struck between the two dies. These collars are difficult to make, and useless when made except in the coining-press, and the counterfeiter cannot imitate the milling by hand work, it being almost impossible to use a file with sufficient regularity.

The French five-franc pieces bear a legend on the edge in raised letters, the words being "Dieu protège la France." Such raised letters are quite beyond the art of the counterfeiter. The English crown has a legend, "Decus et Tutamen," and the year of the reign in incised letters, which could obviously be imitated by the use of punches. The new German gold coins are issued with smooth edges, the ten-mark piece having only a few slight incised marks, and the twenty-mark piece bearing the legend, "Gott mit uns," in faint letters; this is surely a far less satisfactory protection than the milled edge adopted in most other mints. It may be worthy of inquiry, whether the milled edge might not be combined with a legend or other design in relief, so as to render imitation still more difficult. One or two centuries ago, silver coins used to have a kind of ornamental beading on the edge. Elaborate patterns, produced by machinery with perfect regularity, and altogether incapable of imitation by hand, might now be substituted.

#### *Coins as Works of Art.*

Of the use of coins as artistic medals it would not be appropriate to speak at any length. I must however remark that many of the coins still issued from the English mint are monuments of bad taste. It is difficult to imagine poorer designs than those upon the shilling and sixpence, descending from a time when art in many branches was at its apogee in England. As our architecture and art manufacturer of many kinds are regenerated by the efforts

of private persons, is it too much to hope that a government department will follow? The florin is indeed an immense advance upon the shilling, being in some respects a reversion to the style of old English money. A very beautiful pattern crown piece was produced in 1847, in a somewhat similar style, but never issued. Mr. Lowe, when Master of the Mint, gave us back the old George and Dragon sovereign, which is much superior to the shield and wreaths. I think, however, that the time has come for a general improvement in our coins.

#### *Historical Coins.*

Some states have utilized their coins as monuments of important events, such as conquests, jubilees, the accession of monarchs, etc. The German states, especially Prussia, have struck a long series of beautiful coins down to the Krönung's Thaler of 1861, and the Sieges Thaler of 1871. Some of these coins are at once treasured up in cabinets in the manner of medals. If it is possible to conceive literature destroyed, and modern cities and their monuments in ruins and decay, such medallic coins would become the most durable memorials, and the history of the kings of Prussia would be traced out by future numismatists as that of the great dynasties of Bactria has lately been recovered.

In 1842 M. Anténor Joly brought before the French legislative chambers a scheme for a system of historical money, and he renewed his proposal in 1852. M. Ernest Dumas has also suggested the issue of twenty-centime bronze pieces, which should serve either as money or as historical medals. Such schemes have not been carried out in France, and in England no coins of the sort have been struck. Except the mere expense of a new set of dies, I see no objection to the issue of historical money.

#### *The Royal Attribute of Coining.*

Every civilized community requires a supply of well executed coins, and there arises the question, how shall this

money be provided? The coins of each denomination must contain exactly equal weights of fine metal, and must bear and impress proving that they do so. Can we trust to the ordinary competition of manufacturers and traders to keep up a sufficient supply of such coins, just as they supply buttons or pins and needles? Or must we establish a government department, under strict legislative control, to secure good coinage?

As almost every opinion finds some advocate, there are not wanting a few who believe that coinage should be left to the free action of competition. Mr. Herbert Spencer especially, in his "Social Statics," advanced the doctrine that, as we trust the grocer to furnish us with pounds of tea, and the baker to send us loaves of bread, so we might trust Heaton and Sons, or some of the other enterprising firms of Birmingham, to supply us with sovereigns and shillings at their own risk and profit. He held that just as people go by preference to the grocer who sells good tea, and to the baker whose loaves are sound and of full weight, so the honest and successful coiner would gain possession of the market, and his money would drive out inferior productions.

Though I must always deeply respect the opinions of so profound a thinker as Mr. Spencer, I hold that in this instance he has pushed a general principle into an exceptional case, where it quite fails. He has overlooked the important law of Gresham, that better money cannot drive out worse. In matters of currency self-interest acts in the opposite direction to what it does in other affairs, as will be explained, and if coining were left free, those who sold light coins at reduced prices would drive the best trade.

This conclusion is amply confirmed by experience; for at many times and places coins have been issued by private manufacturers, and always with the result of debasing the currency. For a long time the copper currency of England consisted mainly of tradesmen's tokens, which were issued

very light in weight and excessive in number. In Mr. Smiles' "Lives of Boulton and Watt" (p. 391), there is printed an interesting letter, in which Boulton complains that in his journeys he received on an average at the toll-gates two counterfeit pennies for one true one. The lower class of manufacturers, he says, purchased copper coin to the nominal value of thirty-six shillings for twenty shillings in silver, and distributed it to their work-people in wages, so as to make a considerable profit. The multitude of these depreciated pieces in circulation was so great, that the magistrates and inhabitants of Stockport held a public meeting, and resolved to take no halfpence in future but those of the Anglesey Company, which were of full weight. This shows, if proof were needed, that the separate action of self-interest was inoperative in keeping bad coin out of circulation, and it is not to be supposed that that the public meeting could have had any sufficient effect. In China the current small money called *cash* or *le*, is commonly manufactured by private coiners, and the consequence is that the size, quality, and value of the coins have fallen very much.

In my opinion there is nothing less fit to be left to the action of competition than money. In constitutional law the right of coining has always been held to be one of the peculiar prerogatives of the Crown, and it is a maxim of the civil law, that *nonetandi jus principum ossibus inhæret*. To the executive government and its scientific advisers, who have minutely inquired into the intricacies of the subject of currency and coinage, the matter had better be left. It should as far as possible be removed from the sphere of party struggles or public opinion, and confided to the decision of experts. No doubt, in times past, kings have been the most notorious false coiners and depreciators of the currency, but there is no danger of the like being done in modern times. The danger lies quite in the opposite direction, that popular governments will not venture upon the

most obvious and necessary improvement of the monetary system without obtaining a concurrence of popular opinion in its favour, while the people, influenced by habit, and with little knowledge of the subject, will never be able to agree upon the best scheme.

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TO A GOLD COIN FOUND ON THE PLAINS  
OF TROY.



AND thou art here—about whose name and date

'Twere idle e'en to hazard a conjecture—

Perhaps, when Troy was in her palmy state,

Struck to commemorate some feat of Hector :

Perhaps, coeval with the days of Jubal,

Graved by that Cain whose cognomen was Tubal.

Were thy impress and legend visible,

Thou might'st 'tis true, prove but (when all is said),

A button, by some bush from Spon or Gell

Filched, when in search of the Scamander's head :

As 'tis, thou may'st have borne the monogram

Of some old Sheik, anterior to Ham.

Time-eaten relic! Within whose dim round :

The memories of by-gone ages dwell,

Like shapes sepulchral, disnumhed and bound

Within the magic ring by wizard spell ;

Thou cabinet of shadowy portraits! glass

Wherein the phantoms of dead empires pass!

Rome, Carthage, Tyre, those war-ships on the tide

Of Time, are now as they had never been ;

Their battle ensigns that had earth defied,

Ages ago were struck and, piece meal, seen

Into the dark Lethean waves to drop,

While thou, a bubble, floatest at the top!

Thy fellow-bubbles, Cæsars, Caliphs, Sophies,  
 Kings, Consuls, Tribunes, Moguls, Magi, Sages,  
 All who left to dust their bones and trophies  
 And names (where not mis-spelt) to after ages ;  
 The lions, *ne plus ultras* of their day,  
 The marvels Trismegisti—where are they ?

Where Thot, where Cheops, Ninus, Babel's founder,  
 And he who saw the Mede his palace raze,  
 —Of Daniel's text a practical expounder—  
 And turn him out, a human ox to graze !  
 With many more of old and modern story,  
 Jew, Gentile, Greek, Barbarian, Whig and Tory.

The rock whose vein was thy primeval bed,  
 The snows of Kaff or Himla may invest ;  
 Or, wast thou shaken by the thunder's tread,  
 From Gebel Tar\* —a jewel from his crest—  
 Tried in some now extinct volcano's fire,  
 Or brought from Ophir, in a ship of Tyre.

What transmigrations hast thou undergone  
 As coin, ring, bracelet, buckle, brooch or chalice ?  
 How oft been cheaply lost, or dearly won ?  
 Yet still a welcome guest in hut or palace :  
 For doubtless thou had'st travelled long and far  
 Ere rags were cashed or promises at par.

Thou may'st, when Sodom was destroyed by fire,  
 Have melted from the ear of some rich beauty ;  
 Or, as a string to Theban Memnon's lyre,  
 Or royal Nimrod's hunting bow, done duty,  
 Or, brought at Aaron's bidding, helped to mould  
 The statue of a god—the calf of gold.



Thou may'st, prest by Achilles' doughty thumb,  
 Have sealed a cartel to some Trojan peer,  
 Ulysses may have filched thee from his chum,  
 Or Homer pawned thee for a pot of beer,  
 (Whose epic rhapsody too much of slaughter  
 Smacks to have been a nursling of cold water.)  
 Or, was Troy but—as some deem is proved fully—  
 A dream, the tumulus‡ before my eye  
 Not heaped o'er Ajax, but some other bully,  
 Helen's abduction an egregious lie,  
 The Iliad's hero a fictitious person,  
 In short, the writer a mere Greek Macpherson ?  
 What though old Priam's battle-trump no more  
 Rings, but the Turk, (at Agamemnon's post  
 Where gods were seen to bivouac of yore,)  
 Sits moping, like a heron or a ghost ;  
 I scorn the pedant and his prosing lecture,  
 And go for Homer, Hercuba and Hector.  
 For is not Tenedos in view ? and does  
 Not woody Ida in the distance lift  
 Her dim crest, like a thunder-cloud ; and flows  
 Not yellow Xanthus, where the sea-sands shift  
 At the bay's head, beneath whose cape the Greek  
 Moors, as ere *Troja fuit* his caique ?  
 Would'st thou had ears, speech, intellect ! as 'tis,  
 I lock thee in my scrutoire, there to sleep,  
 Till classed—a theme for erudite surmise  
 And sage research beyond the Western deep—,  
 With sketches of mammoths, mermaids, mummies,  
 Brickbats from Babylon, and other dummies.

“ STAT NOMINIS UMBRA ”

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‡ The tomb of Ajax.

## MEDALS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

FORT DETROIT, CHATEAUGUAY AND CRYSLERS FARM.

(BY R. W. McLACHLAN.)



ON the eighteenth of June, 1812, war was declared by the United States against Great Britain. Relations between the two governments having for some years been rather critical; negotiations, for the settlement of their respective claims, were renewed and broken off several times, without arriving at any definite result. The alleged cause of the war—the claim and exercise of the right of search by Britain—seems hardly the true one. Rather the conquest of Canada. A desire for its possession, engendered with the birth of the republic, seems to pervade its whole national history. Even to day, stump-orators, over the border, find, what savors of the acquisition of Canada, to be the most palatable condiment with which to spice their speeches. The time too, for such designs, was most opportune. The mother country, straining every nerve in the great duel with Napoleon, could afford little if any assistance to her threatened colony.

The act of Congress, declaring war, authorized the enlistment of a regular army of 25,000, and the enrolling of a volunteer force of 50,000, supported by a militia reserve of 100,000. This total of 175,000, was considerably more numerous than the adult male population of British America. To cope with this vast army, all the troops that could be mustered, was about 2000 regulars, and such raw levies of the militia as could be hastily called together.

General Hull, with a force of 2000 men, crossed the river from Detroit, on the 12th of July; driving in the pickets stationed at Amherstburg. There and then, was fired the first shot of the memorable war of 1812. General Hull issued a proclamation, from his camp at Sandwich, calling on all Canadians to accept the benefits of the liberty, which he

intended to bring them with the conquest of their Country.

“Separated by an immense ocean, and an extensive wilderness from Great Britain, you have no participation in her councils, nor interest in her conduct. You have felt her tyranny, you have seen her injustice, but I do not ask you to avenge the one, or redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford every security, consistent with their rights, and your expectations, I tender you the invaluable blessings of civil, political, and religious liberty. \* \* \* That liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the nations of the world, and which has afforded us a greater measure of peace and security, of wealth and improvement, than ever fell to the lot of any people. \* \* \* Raise not your hands against your brethren ; many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Being children, therefore of the same family with us, and heirs to the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends, must needs be hailed by you with a cordial welcome.”

Three engagements, arising out of this war, have been considered worthy of commemoration. The victories of Fort Detroit, Chateaugay and Crysler's Farm did more, than aught else, to drive back the wave of invasion that then threatened to swamp the whole country. Those who fought there, deserve well of us who reap the fruits of their victories.

*Fort Detroit.*—Their position becoming untenable, by the capture of Michillimakinak, (great Turtle), the Americans retired to Detroit. General Brock, with about seven hundred regulars and militia, and six hundred Indians, passed over the river on the 15th of August, and invested the fort. Without striking a blow in its defence, General Hull surrendered to this small force, in numbers, considerably inferior to his own. This almost bloodless victory raised the spirits and martial enthusiasm of the whole population, and to improve upon it, General Hull was sent as prisoner towards

Quebec ; gracing triumphal marches through most of the towns and villages on his way. The following is a clipping from the *Montreal Herald* of Sept. 12, 1812, (the first year of its publication) describing the scene at Montreal :

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL HULL,  
*and a part of his army in Montreal.*

Last Sunday evening the Inhabitants of this city were gratified with an exhibition equally novel and interesting.

That Gen. Hull should have made his entry into our city so soon, at the head of his troops, rather exceeded our expectations. We however were very happy to see him, and received him with all the honors due to his high rank, and importance as a public character.—The following particulars relative to his journey, and reception at Montreal, may not be uninteresting to our readers.

It appears Gen. Hull and suite, accompanied by about 25 officers and 350 soldiers left Kingston under an escort of 130 men, commanded by Major Heathcotte of the Newfoundland Regt. At Cornwall the escort was met by Capt. Gray, of the Quarter Master General's Department, who took charge of the prisoners of war, and from thence proceeded with them to La Chine, where they arrived about 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. At La Chine Captains Richardson and Ogilvie, with their companies of the Montreal Militia, and a company of the King's from lower La-Chine, commanded by Capt. Blackmore, formed the Escort till they were met by Colonel Auldjo with the remainder of the flank companies of the militia ; upon which Capt. Blackmore's company fell out, and presented arms as the Gen. and line passed, and then returned to La Chine, leaving the prisoners of war to be guarded by the militia alone.

The line of march then proceeded to the town in the following order—Viz :

1st. The band of the King's Regt.

2d. The first division of the escort.

3d. Gen. Hull in a carriage accompanied by Capt. Gray—  
Capt. Hull and Major Shackelton, followed in the second,  
and some wounded officers and ladies occupied four others.

4th. The American officers.

5th. The Non-commissioned officers & soldiers.

6th. The 2d division of the escort.

It unfortunately proved rather late in the evening, for the vast concourse of spectators assembled, to experience that gratification they so anxiously looked for. This inconvenience was, however, in a great measure, remedied by the illumination of the streets through which the line of march passed. When they arrived at the Government House, the General was conducted in, and presented to His Excellency Sir George Prevost, and was received with the greatest politeness, and invited to take up his residence there during his stay at Montreal. The other officers were accommodated at Holmes's House, and the soldiers lodged in the Quebec barracks. The General appears to be about 60 years of age, and is a good-looking man, and we are informed, by those who had frequent opportunities of conversing with him, that he is a man of general information. He is communicative, and easy in conversation ; and seems to bear his misfortunes with a degree of philosophical resignation, that but few men, in similar circumstances are gifted with.

*Chateauguay*—In the spring of 1813, the war, which had been suspended during the winter months, was again renewed, by the invasion of Upper Canada. With varying success it was carried on all through the summer. Many skirmishes, rather than battles, were fought, in which victory was as often declared for one side as for the other. The following is a general order graphically describing the engagement at Miami River. Thinking it worthy of preservation we therefore reproduce it in full.

Adjutant-General's Office,  
Head-Quarters, Kingston, 21st May, 1813.

G. O.

THE Commander of the Forces has great satisfaction in announcing to the Troops, the brilliant result of an action which took place on the Banks of the Miami River, on the 5th inst. with part of the North-Western Army of the United States, under Major-General Harrison, and which terminated in the complete defeat of the Enemy, and the capture, dispersion or destruction of 1300 Men by the gallant Division of the Army under the command of Brigadier-General Proctor.—Five Hundred Prisoners were taken, exclusive of those who fell into the hands of the Indians, and whose numbers could not be ascertained.

Brigadier-General Proctor praises the gallant behaviour of the Troops, and refers to his Official Dispatch, not yet received.

The enemy's loss was very severe, while that of the British amounted only to 14 rank and file killed, 1 Subaltern, 4 Sergeants, and 37 rank and file wounded.—Militia, 1 Captain killed, 4 rank and file wounded.

*Edward Baynes,*  
*Adjutant General, N. A.*

Brown, Printer. Montreal.

Towards the close of the season a grand scheme was arranged for the invasion of Lower Canada ; having for its ultimate object the capture of Montreal, if not Quebec. Crossing the lines from Chateauguay four corners, General Hampton, with a force numbering 7000, followed the course of the Chateauguay river towards Montreal. Posted on a strong position, on the banks of that river, Colonel De-Salaberry with 300 Canadian *Voltigeurs* awaited his approach. Hampton sent forward a strong detachment of infantry, at the head of which was a very tall officer, who called out;—"Brave Canadians surrender yourselves : we wish you no harm." The reply, a volley of musketry, brought him and many of his followers to the earth. After four hours hard fighting Hampton, imagining the Canadian force

to be far greater, retired from the field. He soon retreated over the lines. One of the aged veterans of that fight we well remember. Clad in an old artillery uniform, he was always seen marching out, alongside the troops, on review days. He was ever ready to recount of his adventures on the day of battle. Although we have heard it often from his lips; all that we can remember is, that—"de Yankee see me fore I see him and he shoot me drough de neck." Thus was fought and won, on the 16th of October, the battle of Chateauguay.

*Chryslers Farm.*—General Wilkinson, having collected about 9000 men at French Creek, descending the St. Lawrence, he intended joining Hampton, near Montreal, before making a combined attack on the town. On his way down he disembarked from his flotilla of barges and gun-boats, above the Long-Sault rapids. Colonel Morrison, with 800 men was sent out from Kingston, to watch his movements. As Morrison was constantly harassing his rear, Wilkinson, on the 11th of November, offered battle, and after two hours hard fighting, was defeated. The result of the battle of Chryslers Farm was—Wilkinson, soon after hearing of the defeat of Hampton at Chateauguay, retired with his whole force across the boundry. Thus by these two engagements, with hardly more than a thousand men, was frustrated this most formidable invasion of our country. Some of the old victors of these fights still survive, and we are glad to learn that the Dominion government has, even thus tardily, determined to reward the great deeds of these venerable survivors. Many amusing incidents, of which the following is a sample, occur at the pension offices.

During the payment of the veterans of 1812-15 at Woodstock, an incident occurred that we think should not be lost. A man named John Smith, 89 years of age, presented himself for payment. He told a straight story, but as his name did not appear on the script or pay roll, it was necessary for:

some other veteran to identify him. Col. McPherson asked if any one present recollected John Smith.

"Yes," responded Sim Papp, "I was once on guard with him."

"Is this the man?" enquired the Col.

"No," responded Sim, "I can't recollect any of the features."

Papp studied a moment and then said, "Hold on Colonel; if he is John Smith I can identify him by asking him one question."

"Proceed," said the Col.

"Well now," says Papp, addressing Smith, "who stole the sheep at Chrysler's farm when the men were starving?"

"*Sam Pipp*," responded Smith, amid a roar of laughter. Smith was paid. The evidence was conclusive.

During the Cæsarian age of Britain, many battles were fought, and victories won, by her soldiers. Some of these victories were commemorated by medals awarded to the victorious warriors. But the victors of many more conflicts as worthy, yet not unsung, had received no tangible laurel of victory. It was therefore, after considerable agitation determined in 1847, to issue a medal rewarding those who fought Britain's battles during the years 1793-1814. Although too late for many; not a few survived to enjoy their well earned, although tardy reward. This, called preeminently "the War Medal," may be described as follows: Obverse:—Diademed head of Victoria. "Victoria Regina: 1848". Reverse:—Victoria, standing on a dias, with a wreath of laurel crowning the Duke of Wellington. "To the British Army; 1793-1814". Ribbon scarlet, with blue borders. Clasps were attached for each battle in which the recipient was engaged. Those for the war in Canada were.—Fort Detroit, for which, 221 Canadian militia received medals and clasps.—Chateauguay having 260. And for *Chrystlers Farm*, as it is incorrectly spelled on the clasps, only 55.



Three of these militia men received clasps for two engagements, and one, Jean Baptist Leclair, received for all three. In all there were 531 medals; 267 for Upper Canadians; and for Lower Canadians 264. Among those of the Upper Canadians, we find the name of John Crysler, the owner of the farm where that battle was fought. Medals were also given to those of the 41st, 49th and 89th Regiments, and to the Indians who took part in those engagements. But of these, distributed by the Imperial government, we have not been able to get at the requisite information.

From statistics, in course of compilation, it has been ascertained that not more than 7286 Canadian militia were called into active service during the whole of the war. This force was made up as follows:—Cavalry 183, Artillery 163, Infantry 6617, Voyageurs 323.

From time to time, detachments of the reserve militia were called out for short periods: varying from two days, to two months. These altogether numbered 16,239 men, which, with the active force, amounted all told, to 23,525. With this small army of Canadians, assisted by about 2000 regulars and as many Indians, was the most formidable invasion of their soil, kept in check, and at length driven off. One seventh of them, 3,200, still live amongst us to fight their battles over to their grand-children. Their average age is over 85. From this we would judge that our rigorous northern climate, inhospitable though it seems, has given birth to, not only a brave, but long lived race of warriors.

Regarding other medals relating to this war—we have a portrait of Colonel DeSableberry, which has among other accessories a representation of one. Of it or its history we have not been able to learn anything. It may be described as follows: Obverse.—Britannia seated to the left, by her side stands a Lion, and her left hand rests on the British shield: Reverse.—the word "CHATEAUGUAY" within a wreath of laurel.

For the Indians, a large silver medal was issued ; having on the Obverse—a bust of George III., “Georgius III. Dei Gratia Britanniarum Rex. F:D:” ; and on the Reverse—the royal arms “1814”.

Another medal was issued by the loyal and patriotic society of Upper Canada. For a full description of it, see Vol. I. page 41.

The Americans also issued medals commemorating some of their victories. But, as Canadians, an account of them does not in the present article come within our province.

We have a number of tokens relating to the battle of Queenston height ; but a description of these, we will reserve for another paper.

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## A GOOD FAMILY.

BY BENJAMIN SULTE.



THE 26th of September, 1667, was a great day for the town of Three Rivers. The whole population, numbering two hundred and forty-seven souls, must at that hour have been in a high state of excitement. A bridal ceremony, of uncommon “grandeur,” connected with circumstances well calculated to raise the public spirit into manifestations of joy and glee, was being performed.

What was it ? The marriage of Miss *Marie Boucher* with Lieutenant *de Varennes*.

Who were they ? The bride, (a girl of twelve years, six months and eighteen days) was the daughter of *Pierre Boucher*, a self made man. Wonderfully adapted was he for a new country like this ; having attained, what was considered for a colonist, the highest position of prosperity and honor.

Boucher commenced, at the age of seventeen, (1640) to study the Indian languages, and to serve as a private in the little garrison of Quebec. Through assiduity, study and tal-

ent, he rose to the position of sergeant, interpreter, and at length clerk at the trading post of Three Rivers, at that time the rendezvous of all the Indian nations of Canada.

Taking advantage of some difficulties of those days, in which his quickness of mind and knowledge of administration, permitted him to act, he soon distinguished himself above all, especially, when that place, invaded by the Iroquois had to sustain regular sieges. The Governor General could find no one better suited to manage that little province of Three Rivers ; always subject to trouble with the Indians ; yet so important on account of its fur trade. He therefore appointed Boucher Lt. Governor. The position of the country, at large, afterwards becoming more critical, it was decided that Boucher should go to the Court at Versailles, to attempt there—that in which no one had before succeeded—the securing for Canada, a respectable corps of troops, that might keep in check the Iroquois. This ambassador, whose only school had been the forests of the St. Lawrence, shewed again the breadth of his mind, as well as the tact, which he seems to have possessed in as high a degree as any one of his time. He not only made his mark ; shewing off to advantage at the polished Court of Louis XIV. ; but on the monarch having expressed a wish for a written description of “ la Nouvelle-France,” Boucher produced, that admirable work now so scarce. This classified him as the first Canadian, who handled the pen of a “ *litterateur* ”—for he was really a Canadian, having lived here since his youth, and taken part, so to speak, in all the events of the period.

But a still greater success, than the writing of his justly admired work, crowned his mission to France. On his return to Canada he was able to announce that a full regiment, glorious in the King's service, had received orders to embark for the shores of St. Lawrence. From that moment closes the first epoch in the history of Canada. A great change took place soon after.

The soldiers of *Carignan-Salières*, in one campaign, swept the Iroquois from their strong holds ; bringing to Canada peace, like a refreshing dew, on the eve of a burning summer day.

Officers and privates became the favorites of the people. One company went to garrison Three Rivers, Mr. De Varennes, (a family name repeated in the French armies, for over half a century) met there Miss Boucher, and a combination was arranged to the following effect. On receiving the hand of Miss Boucher, De Varennes, was to be made governor of Three Rivers, while his Father-in-law was to retire to his seignior, (Boucherville) near Montreal, where he intended to found a vast settlement.

The reader may now well understand the solemnity of that September day, (1667) when the honoured Boucher led to the parish church his beloved daughter, followed by the aristocracy of the town, the military of the garrison, and the whole population. No place, in Canada, had a better class of citizens, or a more enlightened and wealthy people, than had Three Rivers, at that time.

Boucher lived there twenty years, during which he rendered great services to the community. His successor and son-in-law, governed during the succeeding twenty two years, and these forty years are marked by undiminished prosperity.

Two brilliant and patriotic families have sprung from Pierre Boucher. His own, of which there are many branches, under the names of Boucherville, Niverville, Grosbois, &c., still holding high rank in social circles ; and that of Varennes, so entirely devoted to the interests of Canada.

Boucher died aged nearly a hundred, having contributed more, perhaps than any other, to the settlement of the Chambly river, and the district below Montreal. The titles of nobility, conferred on him by Louis XIV., are rare (four in all for Canada) marks of distinction, for a Canadian to receive. Out of some fifteen surviving sons, eight or nine, when

he died, were officers in the regulars. These, together with the sons of Varennes, and those of *Lemoine*, formed a groupe of about twenty, Canadian born military men, of which any French regiment might well have been proud. A fact proved, by some accounts of their services, which has fortunately escaped destruction.

De Varennes had the pleasure, before his departure from this world, of seeing his son joining the army, some time during 1686; others followed. A long series of warlike enterprises, commenced soon after. We sent expeditions to Hudson's Bay; the war, better known as the siege of Quebec by Phipps; the Newfoundland, Nova Scotian, and New England phases of the crises, all occurred between 1696, and 1713. It would be a curious, as well as interesting, study to enumerate one by one the chivalric staff of men, that Canada furnished during that time. By land and sea; in America and Europe, they fought. Already, with not a little satisfaction, do we French Canadians read, of the exploits of our countrymen, in the annals of the French kingdom, that are from time to time brought to light by her historians.

On the day of the battle of Malplaquet, the English regiments, retiring with the laurels of victory, left, among the dead French officers, *Pierre de Varennes de la Verendrye*, who was afterwards picked up by his comrades, and with difficulty cured of nine wounds. These he received between sunrise and sunset. A general order from the commander in chief, thanked him for his behaviour. He then returned to Canada, to carve for himself a name which posterity has too long forgotten.

It is hardly possible, within the compass of the present article, to describe the meritorious career of the discoverer of the North-west. A few words will therefore, serve as an attempt to indicate, the different steps of this great undertaking.

Up to 1730, no one had penetrated the territory west of Lake Superior. De la Verendrye organized a company of adventurers and traders; got up expeditions, and during twenty years of constant exertions, kept up the spirit of the company. Large profits were made on the furs brought down to Montreal, from Rainy Lake, Lakes of the Woods, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Red River, Assiniboine, Saskatchewan, and the plains further on. He finally found himself, at the very foot of the Rocky-Mountains, on his way to the "sea of the West." No less than twelve forts were established by him, his sons and nephew, who assisted in his enterprises; and among them, Fort Garry.

A few months more and he would probably have reached the Pacific coast, the object of his most ardent desire; but the mismanagement of Canadian affairs, by the Bigot clique put a sudden stop to his services. He afterwards died very poor and broken-hearted. Although he had helped to fill with gold the swollen coffers of the clique, it proved of little use to his native country. The place in Three Rivers, where this man was born, is still venerated by the inhabitants.

His sons resumed their place in the army, and went through the seven years war. Most of them perished in battle, or on the sea in returning to France. Only one branch survives, in the person of, the Governor of *la Nouvelle Caledonie*.

The descents of Pierre Boucher are left to us. They live amongst us to recall the history of the past, and enjoy the honours due to their noble race. Of de Varennes and his deserving sons, nothing remains but a souvenir.

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— A sword of curious workmanship, with a handle of gold, covered with heraldic engravings, and apparently of the time of Edward II. or III., has been found at a depth of 35 feet, during the clearing out of the foundations for the new opera house on the Thames embankment.

1775—1875.

ATTACK ON MONTREAL BY THE  
AMERICANS.

IN this year of grace, 1875, whilst centennial anniversaries of many important events are being celebrated, it may be interesting to recall the daring bravery of Richard Montgomery, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, with reference to the attacks upon Montreal and Quebec, 100 years ago.

On the breaking out of the war of the revolution, one of the first acts of Congress was to issue orders for an attack on Canada. Their soldiers had captured Crown Point and Ticonderoga ; why should not Montreal and Quebec fall into their hands? The command of the army intended for this purpose, was given to General Montgomery, who, with 3000 men, besieged and took the forts at Chambly and St. Johns. Governor Sir Guy Carleton, afterwards Lord Dorchester, (who was at Montreal) started for the relief of St. Johns, but he was met at Longueuil, by a party of Americans, who compelled him to recross to Montreal.

When the command of the Northern army devolved upon Montgomery, he sent Allen, who had been traversing Canada in the neighbourhood of the river St. Lawrence, to retrace his steps, and further arouse the people in favour of the Americans. Active and brave, Allen gathered a large number to his standard. Within a week, it is said, he had 250 Canadians under arms. He wrote to Montgomery, that within a few days he would join him at St. Johns, with at least 500 Canadians.

On his way to join the main army, he marched up the east side of the St. Lawrence to Longueuil, where between that place and Laprairie, he fell in with Major Brown, at the head of an advanced party of Americans, who informed him that Montreal was weak and defenceless, and proposed to make a joint attack on the city.

Allen had confidence in the courage and judgment of Brown, and agreed to the proposition. Allen was to return to Longueuil, procure canoes, and cross the St. Lawrence with his troops below the city, while Brown was to cross above the town, with 200 men, and the attack was to be made at opposite points simultaneously.

On October 24th, 1775, Allen crossed the river at night, the weather was rough and windy, and so few were his canoes, that they had to cross three times, yet the whole party were safely carried over before daylight. At dawn Allen expected to hear the signal of Brown, but the morning advanced, and it was evident that the latter had not crossed over. Guards were placed upon the road, to prevent intelligence being carried into the town, and Allen would have retreated if his boats could have carried all over at once.

But the landing of Allen was soon announced to General Carleton, who assembled 30 British regulars and 200 of the Canadian militia, under the command of Major Carden, who marched to Longue Pointe, where the Americans were posted, and after a smart engagement, during which Allen and his men showed great bravery, the whole party were taken prisoners.

They were marched to Montreal, and the officers acted very civilly towards them, but when they were delivered into the custody of General Prescott, they experienced (it is said) very harsh treatment at his hands. On learning from Allen, that he was the same man who had captured Ticonderoga, Prescott was greatly enraged, threatening to hang him, and ordered him to be bound in irons, and placed on board the "*Gaspé*" war schooner.

He remained five weeks in irons, aboard the *Gaspé*, at Montreal, and when Carleton was repulsed at Longueuil, by Warner, as previously stated, the Vessel was sent down to Quebec, there he was transferred on board another vessel, and treated humanely, and was ultimately sent to England, to be tried for treason.



Allen complained bitterly of his treatment during his captivity, he appears to have been moved about several times, and was not released until May, 1778, when he was exchanged for Colonel Campbell, and he returned to his home in Vermont.

The locality of Allen's landing and the battle ground is unknown, but it is probable that the suburbs of the city now covers it, and that the place is not far from the present ferry-landing at Hochelaga, on the road to Longue Pointe.

The cause of Major Brown's failure to cross, and attack Montreal with Ailen, has never been explained. The plan was good, and would in all probability have been successful. Half carried out, it proved disastrous, and both Brown and Allen were blamed, the one for proposing, the other for attempting such a hazardous enterprise.

Immediately upon the surrender of the fort at St. Johns, Montgomery pressed on towards Montreal. In the meantime, Governor Carleton assembled all his available force for the purpose of repairing to the defence of Quebec, and had left Montreal, when Montgomery appeared before the city. The citizens, although knowing that their ruined walls would prove no defence, determined to enforce, if possible, the observance of military customs, before they surrendered, and while they had neither ammunition, artillery, troops nor provisions to withstand a siege, they drew up their own articles of capitulation, which were accepted, and on Nov. 13th, 1775, at 9 o'clock, the American troops took possession by the Recollet Gate, only, however, to retain their position for a few months, when the old flag again floated from "Citadel Hill."

From that time onward, Montreal has prospered, and extended its borders in every direction; growing from a population of a little over 3,000, at the time of which we have been writing, to the fine city of to-day, the commercial

metropolis of the Dominion of Canada, with its busy population of nearly 150,000.

Notwithstanding all the important posts in Canada, except Quebec, were by this time in possession of the Americans, Montgomery asserted in his letter to Congress, that "till Quebec is taken, Canada is unconquered."

Of his attack on Quebec, and the death of Montgomery, we purpose to speak in another paper.

### THE BRITISH MINT 1874-5.



CONSIDERABLE portion of the Annual Report of the British Mint is devoted to statistics. To many it will appear a somewhat startling fact that coins to the value of nearly two and a half million pounds were required to be struck in the year, and that it is only from the large coinages of 1872 and 1871, coupled with the large import of Australian sovereigns and half-sovereigns, that so small an amount as a million and a half (value) of gold coins were sufficient, instead of the average £5,000,000. Of the Australian coins, nearly two millions in value were imported. The demand for silver coin in 1874 was less by a fourth than in the year previous. A noticeable fact is the largely increased demand for threepences, 4,122,000 pieces, worth £51,525, having been issued. The re-issue of half-crowns commenced in May, 1874, and the amount coined in the year was £273,000, of which nearly £200,000 was issued. The process of renewing the silver coinage of the colonies is going on rapidly. The fact that a considerable amount of bronze money had to be coined by contract, led to a somewhat urgent appeal for extended accommodation. The machinery is now the same as that erected in 1810, when the Mint was moved from the Tower to its present site on Tower Hill. Considering the fact that

our coinage is admitted to be at least equal to that of any country in the world, it is difficult to believe that the work is done by "machinery more obsolete and inefficient than that of any mint in Europe, not excepting that at Constantinople." Such, however, is the case.

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### TOSSING PENNIES.



**I**N the *Birmingham Gazette* we find the following letter, which has been received by Mr. Ralph Heaton, at the Birmingham Mint :

"To Messrs. Heaton and Sons—I had a penny which had two heads upon it, and I have given it away in mistake. I would like another one, so if you will cast two for me, one with two heads and one with two tails. I have enclosed four stamps, and if it is not enough, I will send a few more for your trouble. Let me know by return of post if you can supply me, and oblige

PETER REID,

Bridge of Caley, Blairgowrie.

N.B.—It is for tossing with I want them, and I will pay the postage for them."

The letter was forwarded to the Mint in London, with the following note :

"The Mint, Birmingham, September 3rd, 1875.

To the Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Deputy-Master of the Mint.

Dear Sir,—The note enclosed with 8½d. stamps arrived here yesterday. As I think the application so unique, and as we cannot oblige the applicant with his tossing pennies, I have taken the liberty of sending it to you, and remain,

Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

RALPH HEATON."

Aris's *Birmingham Gazette* of September 18th, furnishes the following further information :

"It is but the other day that we calmed the public mind as to the notorious "H" penny, and explained that the mysterious and often ill-used letter was in that case simply the initial of Mr. Heaton, a contractor with the Royal Mint for the stamping of bronze coins. Now, Mr. Heaton himself, in addition to issuing genuine money, has given currency to a strange story about tossing pennies, which also requires elucidation. He states that a correspondent in the North sent him an order, with remittance, for two pennies of a very peculiar kind. One was to have 'two heads,' and the other 'two tails.' They were admittedly for tossing purposes, Mr. Reid (the gentleman from whom the order came having, unfortunately, paid away his own double-headed penny by mistake.) Mr. Heaton does not state what reply he returned to his Scotch correspondent, nor whether 'the goods' were forwarded or not. 'Tossing' coins are produced in every mint in the world. They are, however, made only by accident, and ought to be relegated at once to the furnace. Occasionally, through inadvertence on the part of the work-people, they escape with ordinary coins and reach the hands of the public; or they are abstracted from the factory by petty larceny. It would require much detail to explain exactly how double-headed and double-tailed coins of every denomination come sometimes into existence in the rapid striking of money at the Mint. They are simply the result of occasional slips in the action of the machinery, and are known in the language of Her Majesty's coiners as 'brockages' or 'wasters.' Formerly such coins were made for sale from two good coins reduced and brazed together, but we question whether they are often now made. These brazed 'tossing' coins were sold (in copper) at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. each, according to artistic merits; and for this reason we think the Master of the Mint should find out by what method Mr. Reid estimated the value of the two coins he required with carriage at 8½d. only."

## NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.



ON the 15th of December, the Annual Meeting was held, Daniel Rose, Esq., Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's report was then read, shewing the finances of the society to be in a satisfactory state; also a financial statement of the *Canadian Antiquarian* for the year ending June 30th, 1875.

On motion the report was adopted.

The following additions were made to the Society's Cabinet: from Hy. Laggatt, Esq., three copies of Antique Medallions; from Thomas Widd, Esq., a third brass of Claudius Gothieus, found in a field in the North of England; from Major L. A. H. Latour, parts 8 and 9 of his "Annuaire de Ville-Marie."

R. W. McLachlan exhibited a curious half-penny of Nova Scotia, with the date "1382."

On motion, Messrs. Fredrick Griffin, George Cushing, and W. McLennan, were elected members.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, resulting as follows:

President . . . . .	Daniel Rose.
1st Vice-President . . . . .	Major L. A. H. Latour.
2nd " . . . . .	W. Blackburn.
Secretary . . . . .	G. E. Hart.
Treasurer and Curator . . . . .	R. W. McLachlan.

The meeting then adjourned.

GERALD E. HART,  
*Secretary.*

## EDITORIAL.

**D**URING the year just closed, there has not been shewn, in Numismatic circles, the activity of former years. Some of the champions, gray in the pursuit, have been removed; without, as yet, their mantle having fallen on as worthy successors. Still those who remain are holding their own, and, perhaps, are making some headway in historical study and antiquarian research.

— In Coin Sales there is not much to record. Two notable ones have taken place since our last issue. That of Col. M. I. Cohen, and one belonging to Col. J. H. Taylor. While the prices paid did not range as high as during the years 1873-4, competition was spirited; nearly every coin realizing its value. We have also received a catalogue of what is known as the "Jewett Collection," comprising 3114 lots; to be sold, January 24-28. Among the coins therein described, we note several Greek and Roman pieces; also a Leslie twopence, and an Indian medal which as yet we have not seen elsewhere described.

— On his eighteenth birth-day, the venerable Carlyle was waited on by a number of his friends, and presented with a gold medal. Obv.—Head of Carlyle. Rev.—"In commemoration, Dec. 4th, 1875."

— The following is a description of a curious engraved medal, commemorating an incident arising out of the rebellion of 1837: On the reverse is inscribed—"Presented to Washington Franklin Jennings, one of nature's noblemen, by Thomas Storrow Brown, as a tribute of respect and gratitude, December, 1875." On the face, surmounted by a wreath of maple leaves, the reason for giving this medal is thus recorded: "In December, 1837, T. S. Brown, a patriot for whose apprehension \$2,000 was offered, lame and exhausted after four days and nights' exposure in the woods,

met the noble-hearted W. F. Jennings, who, regardless of the reward offered, or the danger to which he exposed himself by this generous devotion to a man before unknown to him, secreted Mr. Brown in barns, and supplied food, and provided for him a safe passage across the line to Vermont." On the ribbon attached is a gold plate with a very neatly engraved representation of the good Samaritan. In 1837, Mr. Jennings, who singularly enough bears two highly honored names, was commencing life in a small clearing in the woods about two miles and a half from Dunham Village, Province of Quebec, to whom Mr. Brown was personally unknown, until he came out of the woods to ask shelter. The woods are now cleared away, and Mr. Jennings still resides at the same place, an independent farmer of high standing and public estimation.

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#### REVIEWS.



*THE Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec for the Sessions of 1873-4 and 1874-5* is before us. The contents are of unusual interest to the Antiquarian. A paper, by Mr. James Stevenson, entitled, *Currency with reference to Card money in Canada during the French dominion*, is exhaustive of the subject. It is illustrated by two plates, representing three varieties of this early irredeemable paper currency. The other papers are: "Sieges, and the changes produced by modern weapons." "Early French settlements in America." "The present state of Literature in Canada, and the Intellectual progress of its people during the last fifty years," and "Some things belonging to the settlement of the Valley of the Ohio."

— Messrs. W. Drysdale & Co. have sent us a copy of "Principal Dawson's Address before the American Associa-

tion for the Advancement of Science, held at Detroit." He introduced his subject thus: "I shall therefore ask your attention for a short time to the question,—'What do we know of the origin and history of life on our planet?'" After giving a characteristic description of what has been discovered of early life, he endeavors to stem the current of thought, drifting more and more strongly, towards the evolution and development theories.

— From J. M. Lemoine, Esq., we have received a copy of his "*Histoire des Fortifications et des Rues de Quebec.*" This is a pamphlet of 51 pages, graphically describing the fortifications and streets of Quebec, their origin and history. We have also received from the same gentleman, a chart shewing the projected improvements of the fortifications of Quebec.

— *The American Journal of Numismatics* has come to hand. Its contents, the usual numismatic gossip, is very interesting. Amongst which we may notice a description of the United States Mint, and a list of the Centennial Medals.

— The *Troisieme livraison of the Revue Belge de Numismatique*, comes to us, as usual, replete with interesting numismatic facts. It has, among others, the conclusion of a lengthy article on Oriental Numismatics.

— The *Numismatic Chronicle*, part 1, 1875, contains a number of interesting papers on Ancient Coins. From the pen of F. W. Madden is a continuation of the supplement to his already standard work on the Coinage of the Jews.