



THE
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN,
AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

VOL. IV.

MONTREAL, OCTOBER, 1875.

No. 2.

FIRST SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF LOUISBURG.

WHEN the siege of Louisburg is spoken of, it is commonly accepted as referring to the siege of 1758, in which, General Wolfe played so important a part, and which was the precursor of subsequent events which transferred the rule in North America from France to England, but the capture of this stronghold of the French King, in 1745, displayed bravery and determination scarcely surpassed by that of the final struggle thirteen years later.

In 1715, Louis XIV., in order to detach Queen Anne of England from her alliance with the united powers of Europe, with whom he was contending, offered her Newfoundland, Hudson Bay, and Nova Scotia, preserving to France, Canada, Prince Edward's Island, and Cape Breton. The attention of the French Government was now actively bestowed on the latter, as a means of extending the cod-fishery, and still maintaining the command of the navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence ; hence the colonization of Cape Breton, and

the erection of the strong fortification of Louisburg (named after the French King) in 1720, on the south-east coast of the island.

The French were not long on Cape Breton before they commenced instigating the Indians to attack the English settlers at Cape Canseau and in Nova Scotia, and the war of 1744 in Europe was followed up with perseverance and ability by the garrison of Louisburg in its attacks on Nova Scotia. The Massachusetts Government sent aid to Annapolis, then besieged by the French and their Indian allies—the Indians of Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Pigwogat and others aided the New England colonists: a furious and savage war was carried on between both parties, and the Government of Massachusetts determined on attacking Louisburg, which the French had been twenty-five years fortifying, and though not then completed, at an expense of thirty million of livres.

Louisburg, when attacked by the New Englanders, was environed, two miles and a half in circumference, with a rampart of stone from thirty to thirty-six feet high, and a ditch eighty feet wide, with the exception of a space of two hundred yards near the sea, which was enclosed by a dyke and a line of pickets. The water in this place was shallow, and numerous reefs rendered inaccessible to shipping, while it received an additional protection from the side fire of the bastions, of which there were six, and eight batteries, containing embrasures for 148 cannon, but of which forty-five only were mounted, and sixteen mortars. On an island at the entrance of the harbour was planted a battery of thirty cannon, carrying twenty eight-pound shot; and at the bottom of the harbour was the grand or royal battery of twenty-eight cannon, forty-two-pounders, and two eighteen-pounders. The entrance to the town was at the west gate over a drawbridge, near which was a circular battery, mounting sixteen guns, of fourteen-pounds shot. Governor Shirley

had conceived the idea of attacking this place soon after the capture of Canseau, and the same autumn had solicited the assistance of the British ministry ; supposing that it might be surprised, if an attempt was made early in the spring, before the arrival of succours from France, he communicated his plan, without waiting for answers from England, in his despatches to the general court, under an oath of secrecy. Wild and impracticable as this scheme appeared to all prudent men, it was natural to suppose that it would meet with much opposition, and it was accordingly rejected—but upon reconsideration, it was carried by a majority of a single voice. Circulars were immediately addressed to the colonies, as far south as Pennsylvania requesting their assistance, and that an embargo might be laid on all their ports. The New England colonies were, however, alone concerned in this expedition. The forces employed by Massachusetts consisted of upwards of 3,200 men, aided by 500 from Connecticut, and 300 from New Hampshire—the contingent from Rhode Island of 300 not having arrived until after the surrender of the city. Ten vessels, of which the largest carried only twenty guns, with a few armed sloops from Connecticut and Rhode Island, constituted the whole naval force. In two months the army was enlisted, victualled, and equipped for service. The command of the expedition was given to a colonel of militia, at Kittery, William Pepperal, Esq. This gentleman was extensively concerned in trade, whereby he had acquired much influence : and as his manners were affable, and his character unblemished, he was very popular both in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where he was very generally known. These qualities were absolutely necessary in the commander of an army of volunteers, his own countrymen, who were to quit their domestic connections, and employments, and engage in a hazardous enterprise, which none of them, from the highest to the lowest, knew how to conduct. In waging war against the papists,

there can be little doubt that some thought they were doing God service ; and the military feeling of the people was excited both by patriotism and religion. The flag was presented to the famous George Whitefield, who was then an itinerant preacher in New England, and he was pressed by Pepperal to favour him with a motto, suitable for the occasion. The inscription ' nil desperandum Christo duce' gave the expedition the air of a crusade, and many of his followers enlisted. One of them, a chaplain, carried on his shoulders a hatchet, with which he intended to destroy the images in the French Churches. Previous to the departure of the fleet, a despatch was sent to Commodore Warren, who was on the West India station, informing him of the contemplated attack on Louisburg, and soliciting his assistance and co-operation ; but he declined the invitation, on the score of having no orders, and that the expedition was wholly a provincial affair, undertaken without the assent, and perhaps without the knowledge, of the ministry. This was a severe disappointment to Governor Shirley, but being determined to make the attempt at all hazards, he concealed the information from the troops, and on the 4th of April they embarked for Canseau, where they arrived in safety : but were detained three weeks, waiting the dissolution of the ice, with which the coast of Cape Breton was environed. After Commodore Warren had returned an answer to Governor Shirley, he received instructions from England, founded on the communications which the latter had made on the subject, by which he was ordered to proceed directly to North America, and concert measures for the benefit of his Majesty's service. Hearing that the fleet had sailed, he steered direct for Canseau, and after a short consultation with General Pepperal, he proceeded to cruise before Louisburg, whither he was soon followed by the fleet and army, which arrived on the 13th of April, in Chaparouge Bay. The sight of the transports gave the first intelligence of the intended attack, for although the English had

been detained three weeks at Canseau, the French were, until the moment of their arrival, ignorant of their being in the neighbourhood. Preparations were immediately made for landing the men, which was effected without much opposition, and the enemy driven into the town. While the troops were disembarking, the French burned all the houses in the neighbourhood of the works, which might serve as a cover to the English, and sunk some vessels in the harbour to obstruct the entrance of the fleet. The first object was to invest the city. Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan conducted the first column through the woods within sight of Louisburg, and saluted the city with three cheers. At the head of a detachment, composed chiefly of New Hampshire troops, he marched in the night to the north-east part of the harbour, where he burned the warehouses containing the naval stores, and staved a large quantity of wine and brandy. The smoke of the fire, driven by the wind into the Grand Battery, so terrified the French that they abandoned it, and spiking their guns retired to the city. The next morning Vaughan took possession of the deserted battery, and having drilled the cannon left by the enemy, which consisted chiefly of forty-two pounders, turned them with good effect on the city, within which almost every shot lodged, while several fell on the roof of the citadel. The troops were employed for fourteen successive nights in drawing cannon from the landing-place to the camps, through a morass. To effect this they were obliged to construct sledges, as the ground was too soft to admit of the use of wheels; while the men, with straps on their shoulders, and sinking to their knees in mud, performed labour beyond the power of oxen; and which could only be executed in the night or during a foggy day, the morass being within view of the town and within reach of its guns. On the 7th of May a summons was sent to Duchambon, who refused to surrender; the siege was therefore pressed with great vigour and spirit. By the 28th of the

month the Provincials had erected five fascine batteries, mounted with 16 pieces of cannon and several mortars, which had destroyed the western gate, and made a very evident impression on the circular battery of the enemy. The fortifications on the island, however, had been so judiciously placed, and the artillery so well served, that they made five unsuccessful attacks upon it, in the last of which they lost 189 men. In the mean time Commodore Warren captured the *Vigilant*, a French seventy-four, having a complement of 560 men, and great quantities of military stores. This prize was of the utmost importance, as it not only added to the naval forces of the English, but furnished them with a variety of supplies of which they were very deficient. Suffice it to say, that the preparations which were making for a general assault, at length determined Duchambon to surrender; and accordingly, on the 16th of June, he capitulated. Upon entering the fortress and viewing its strength, and the plenty and variety of its means of defence, the impracticability of carrying it by assault, was fully demonstrated. The garrison, amounting to 650 veteran troops, and 1310 militia, with the crew of the *Vigilant*, and the principal inhabitants of the city, in all 4130, engaged that they would not bear arms for twelve months against Great Britain or her allies; and being embarked on board of fourteen cartel ships, were transported to Rochfort. The New England forces lost 101 men, killed by the enemy and other accidental causes, and about thirty, who died from sickness; while the French were supposed to have lost 300, who were killed within the walls. Not the least singular event connected with this gallant circumstance was the fact that the plan for the reduction of this regularly-constructed fortress, *was drawn up by a lawyer, and executed by a body of colonial husbandmen and merchants*; animated indeed by a zeal for the service of their country, but wholly destitute of professional skill!

During the forty-nine days the siege lasted, the weather

was remarkably fine for the season of the year, but the day after the surrender it became foul, and the rain fell incessantly for ten days ; which as there were 1,500 at that time afflicted with a dysentery, must, if it had occurred at an earlier period, have proved fatal to a large portion of the troops.

The concurrence of fortunate circumstances did not lessen the merit of the man who planned, nor of the people who effected the conquest, which exhibited a high spirit of enterprise, and a generous participation in the war of the mother country. Cape Breton was useful to France : in many respects Louisburg had realized the hopes of those who projected its establishment. Its local connections with the fisheries, whence her naval power began to draw a respectability that threatened to rival that of her enemy, made it a commodious station for their encouragement ; and by dividing the principal stations of the English fisheries at Newfoundland and Canseau it gave a check to both. Louisburg was the French Dunkirk of America, whence privateers were fitted out to infest the coast of the British plantations, and to which prizes were conveyed in safety. In November preceding the capture of this place, the grand French fleet sailed from thence, consisting of three men of war, six East India ships, thirty-one other ships, nine brigantines, five scows, and two schooners. The French East and West India fleets found a secure harbour there, and the supplies of fish and lumber were carried with inconvenience from thence to the sugar colonies ; besides which, Cape Breton commanded the entrance into the gulf of St. Lawrence, and consequently the navigation to and from the favourite colony of France. If all these local advantages did not accrue, positively, to Great Britain, upon the capture of this island, yet wresting them from the hand of her enemy was almost equal to it. There was also another of great consequence, arising to her from the existing state of Nova-Scotia. An expedition was projected by the French, to recover the province ; the taking of Cape Breton frustrated

the execution of this plan, and gave the English an additional bridle over this half-revolting country. The news of this conquest being transmitted to England, General Pepperal and Commodore Warren were preferred to the dignity of Baronets of Great Britain, and congratulatory addresses were presented to the King, upon the success of his Majesty's arms. Reinforcements of men, stores, and provisions having arrived at Louisburg, it was determined, in a council of war, to maintain the place, and repair the breaches. Two French East India ships and a South Sea vessel, valued at 600,000*l.*, were decoyed into Louisburg, and captured, by hoisting the French flag ; and a large French fleet, coming out for the relief of Louisburg, narrowly escaped a similar fate, by capturing a vessel bound from Boston to London, with the Governør of New York on board, who was proceeding to England with the joyful intelligence of the conquest.

The acquisition by the British of the island of St. John, now called Prince Edward, in honour of the lamented and universally beloved Duke of Kent, followed the capture of Louisburg. At the peace of Aix la Chapelle in 1749, Cape Breton was restored to France in return for Madras, which had been captured by the brave Labourdonnais with a force from Pondicherry, and remained in the possession of France, until the American campaign of 1756, when Lord Loudon, at the annual military council held at Boston, determined on endeavouring to effect the re-capture of Louisburg from the French.

Louisburg Harbour, in 45° 54' north latitude, 59° 52' west longitude ; has an entrance about a quarter of a mile wide between some small rocky islet, with a blind passage near the west point, on which Louisburg stood. The basin within, three miles long by one wide, is one of the finest harbours in the world, with good watering places. The ruins of the once formidable batteries, with wide broken

gaps (as blown open by gunpowder), present a melancholy picture of past energy. The strong and capacious magazines, once the deposit of immense quantities of munitions of war, are still nearly entire, but hidden by the accumulation of earth and turf, and now afford a commodious shelter for flocks of peaceful sheep, who feed around the burial ground, were the remains of many a gallant Frenchman and patriotic Briton are deposited ; while beneath the clear cold wave may be seen the vast sunken ships of war, whose very bulk indicates the power enjoyed by the Gallic nation, ere England became mistress of her colonies on the shore of the western Atlantic. Desolation now sits with a ghastly smile around the once formidable bastions—all is silent except the loud reverberating ocean, as it rolls its tremendous surges along the rocky beach, or the bleating of the scattered sheep, as, with tinkling bells, they return in the dusky solitude of eve, to their singular folds ;—while the descendant of some heroic Gaul, whose ancestors fought and bled in endeavouring to prevent the noble fortress of his sovereign being laid prostrate before the prowess of mightier Albion, may be observed wandering along these time-honoured ruins, and mentally exclaiming in the language of the Bard of Erin :—

On Louisburg's heights where the fisherman strays,
When the clear cold eve's declining,
He sees the war ships of other days
In the waves beneath him, shining ;
Thus shall memory often in dreams sublime,
Catch a glimpse of the days that are over ;
And sighing look back through the vista of time,
For the long faded glories they cover.

Mr. M'Gregor, who visited the spot, says, that a few fishermen's huts form a melancholy contrast to the superb edifices, regular fortifications, naval grandeur, military pomp, and commercial activity, of which Louisburg was once the splen-

did theatre. The inhabitants along the coast are chiefly Acadian-French fisherman, and it is frequented principally by Jersey and Guernsey people.

[Divers are now working in Halifax harbor at the wreck of a French frigate which sank off Mount Hope, where the Lunatic Asylum now stands. On Saturday, July 3rd., an attempt to blow her up was made and some copper was recovered. The wood work, it is said still remains sound. The vessel fell into the hands of the English at the Fall of Louisburg and was loaded with stores at that place for Massachusetts. She called at Halifax on her way, and during a heavy gale drove from her anchors and sank.—ED.]

THE CORONATION CHAIR AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.



HIS chair is a relic of great interest, but which, in that marvelous building, so crowned with legends and memories, scarcely obtains more than a passing glance. That rude chair, once gilt and emblazoned with color, contains the old coronation stone of Scotland, a sacred stone which, according to some antiquaries, Fergus, the first King of Scotland, brought from Ireland as a palladium of his race. According to bardic tradition, it groaned and spake when the real rightful King rested himself upon it. According to the old historians, less trustworthy, it was the very stone that Jacob laid his head upon the night of his memorable dream; and according to another equally veracious chronicler, it was brought from Egypt by the son of King Cecrops. King Fergus, it is allowed, might have sat on its cool surface on his coronation, 330 B. C., and it is unquestionable that this great relic was really used at the coronation of the old Scottish kings at Dunstaffnage and at Scone. It was carried to the latter place by Kenneth II., say historians, when he united the Picts and the Scots in the

ninth century, and in the thirteenth century, Edward I. brought it to Westminster, where it has remained ever since. In the days before the old hatred had ceased, the Scots used to vow and swear that this stone was an imposture, the original stone having been returned and destroyed. This "stone of destiny," or miraculous bardic stone, was mentioned in several English and Scotch treaties, and Edward III. even issued a mandate for its restoration to David I., but the carriage must have been heavy, and the Scotchmen objected to pay, for it never left Westminster, and there it is now.

KING CHARLES THE FIRST'S COLLECTION OF COINS.

BY HENRY W. HENFREY, ESQ.



WHILE looking through a volume of original letters and warrants at the British Museum, I happened by chance to notice the following curious warrant of Charles I., and as it does not seem to have ever been printed, or noticed by any numismatic writer, I considered that a copy, together with the partial explanation that I can render of it, would no be unacceptable.

CHARLES R.

Whereas wee have remayning in our Library at St. James divers Medalls and ancient Coines, Greeke, Romane, and others. Wee doe hereby authorize, constitue, and appoint, our trusty and welbeloved Sir Simonds D'Ewes of Stowhall in the County of Suffolck Knight & Baronet, and Patricke Young Gentl. keeper of our Libraries, to sort and put y^e said Coines and Medalls into their Series and order, and to lay aside to bee disposed by us all for duplicates among them w^{ch} are genuine and true, and to separate, and divide the novitious, adulterate & spurious peeces from y^e said genuine. All which said peeces so separated and divided, are to

remaine in our said Library at St. James, in the custody of the said Patricke Young, until our further pleasure bee knowne. And that y^e said Sir Simonds D'Ewes have free liberty from time to time to take into his own custodie and keeping, such and soe many of them as hee shall have occasion to make use of, hee giving under his hand a note for the true & faithfull restoring of the number received. Given under our Royall hand at Newport in the Isle of Wight this 19th day of October, in the foure and twentieth yeare of our Raigne. [1648].—(Additional MSS., No. 6,988. fo. 216.)

Sir Simonds d'Ewes, Knight and Baronet, was an eminent historian and antiquary, who lived 1602—1650. He was a burgess for Sudbury in the celebrated Long Parliament; but his sympathies inclining to the Court, he was one of the members "purged" on the 6th December, 1648. He then retired to his antiquarian studies and pursuits, and we are told that he formed a noble collection of Roman coins.

Patrick Young, a Scotchman by birth, (born 1584, died 1652), was appointed the first librarian of the English Royal Library after its complete settlement. He was also a prebendary and treasurer of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Having premised these facts, which will be found in the "Biographia Britannica," I will now give, from the same source, a short account of the proceedings taken by the Commonwealth with regard to the Royal Library at St. James's. It was first seized by the Parliament in August, 1648, and committed to the trust of Hugh Peters, who preserved the library and coins for three or four months, when he delivered up the keys and custody of them to Major-General Ireton. The well-known and enlightened Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, fearing that these national treasures might be sold to foreigners, and so lost to the country, and at the instance of the learned John Selden, undertook the care of them in July, 1649. He appointed, in the same year, John

Dury, a German, to be his deputy librarian, and instructed him "to go for an inventory of the books and Medals to Mr. Young." Mr. Dury continued in charge of the Royal Library and Medals probably until the Restoration, and from an account taken by him, on the 27th April, 1652, we learn that 12,000 coins were then in the library.*

Returning to the warrant, one is led to inquire why such orders should be given by the King to Sir Symonds d'Ewes and Patrick Young on the 19th October, 1648, when the coins were actually under the control of the Parliament, and in the custody of their agent, Hugh Peters? Charles I. was then at Newport, released on parole from his prison at Carisbrook Castle, in the Isle of Wight. During the negotiations which took place from the 18th September to the 27th November between the King and the Parliamentary Commissioners, and which resulted in the Treaty of Newport, Charles was allowed to occupy the house of a private citizen in that town. From this house the warrant in question must have been dated, on the 19th October, and it is not improbable that the King then expected to be very shortly reconciled with the Parliament, and again installed in his former power and possessions. In fact, until the famous "Pride's Purge," the Parliament was very well disposed towards a reconciliation with him; and by a vote of the 5th December, 1648, accepted the King's concessions as a ground for proceeding to the settlement of the peace of the kingdom. But after Colonel Pride's exclusion of the forty-one members on the following day, all such hope was at an end. Charles had been seized by the army, and removed from Newport on the 29th November, and on the 30th January, 1649, he was executed, within three months and a half from the date of his signing this Warrant.

* See "Biographia Britannica." Arts D'Ewes, Whitelocke Young.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since writing the above I have, at the request of the Editor, collected all the notices that I can find relative to Charles I.'s collection of coins and medals.

Lilly says that Charles "was well skilled in things of antiquity," and "could judge of medals whether they had the number of years they pretended unto." He acquired on his brother's death, the cabinet which was founded by Prince Henry.

John Pinkerton, in the third edition (1808) of his "Essay on Medals," remarks, that "Henry Prince of Wales bought the collection of Gortæus, amounting, as Joseph Scaliger, says, to 30,000 coins and medals, and left it to his brother, Charles I."—(P. 10, vol. i.)

It is believed that Charles I. added considerably to this collection, and Horace Walpole (in his "Anecdotes of Painting") states that, upon his accession, he appointed Abraham Vanderdort, a Dutchman, keeper of his cabinet of pictures, medals, &c., at a salary of £40 a year.

There are several copies extant in manuscript of the catalogue which Vanderdort drew up at the King's command, entitled "An inventory of pictures, medals, agates, and other rarities in the privy-garden at Whitehall." The original inventory is said to be in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, but a copy of it, in Vanderdort's handwriting, may be seen in the British Museum, Harleian MSS., No. 4718. A rough list of the King's medals is given on fos. 23-28. A fair copy of this catalogue was lately bought by her Majesty the Queen for the library at Windsor, from the sale of Sir William Tite's collection.

The subsequent history of Charles I.'s cabinet until the Restoration has been noticed in the preceding article; but upon the return of Charles II., he ordered Elias Ashmole to draw up an account of the royal cabinet, as we learn from

the following passage in the Memoirs prefixed to Ashmoles' "Antiquities of Berkshire," 8vo., 1719, vol. i. p. x. :—

"Soon after this (about August, 1660) he was appointed by the King to make a Description of his Medals, and had them delivered into his Hands, and King Henry the VIIIth's Closet assigned for that purpose."

John Evelyn, in his "Numismata," supplies the next notice, viz. :—

"I conclude this Recension where indeed I ought to have begun, when I mention'd the Great and most Illustrious Persons of *England* (emulating the most celebrated Cabinets of the Greatest *Princes* of other *Countries*), namely that *Royal Collection of Medals* at *St. James's*, begun by that Magnanimous and Hopeful Prince *Henry*, and exceedingly augmented and improved by his Brother King *Charles the Martyr*, from the Testimony of his own Learned Library-keeper *Patrick Junius* (in his *Notes* on *St. Clement's Epistle* to the *Corinthians*), *Quem locum* (speaking of *St. James's*) *si vicinam Pinacothecam, Bibliothecæ celeberrimæ conjunctam : Si NUMISMATA Antiqua Græca, ac Romana ; Si statuas & Signa ex Ære & Marmore consideres ; non immeritò The-saurum Antiquitatis & Ταμειον Instructissimum nominare potes, &c.* To which add, that of another Learned Medalist,* *Carolus Primus ille Magnæ Britannicæ Rex, cæteris Europæ Principes omnes hoc possessionum Genere, vincebat ;* which how at this Day impair'd, and miserably imbezel'd, not only by the *Rebels* during the late *Civil Wars*, but even since, thro' the Negligence of others, is of deplorable Consideration ; if any hopes yet remain of its revival again to some tolerable degree of Lustre and Repair, we must be oblig'd to the indefatigable Industry of the late Supervisor, the obliging and universally Learned (whilst he lived, my excellent Friend) and lately deceas'd Monsieur *Fustel* ; and from

* *Car. Patin, Famil. Rom.*

hence forward to the no less accomplish'd (in all solid Learning and severer Studies) Dr. *Bentley*, his worthy successor.

"This for the *Books* and Manuscripts, among which there are still many Choice and Inestimable Volumes, besides the Famous and Venerable *Alexandrian Greek Bible*, of *St. Tecla*; but the *Medals* have been taken away and purloin'd by *Thousands*, and irrecoverable. Their late Majesties (Charles II. and James II.) had yet a very rich and ample *Collection*, which I well remember were put in Order, and Methodiz'd by Mr. *Ashmole*, soon after the Restauration of King *Charles* the Second, which I hope, and presume may be still in being and to be recovered."—(Pp. 246, 7, of J. Evelyn's "Numismata," fol., London, 1697.

However, very soon after the publication of Evelyn's book, the royal collection was irrecoverably lost in the great fire which consumed all that remained of the palace of Whitehall (except the Banqueting House) on Tuesday, 4th January, 1697-8.

The reader may thus trace the history of the ill-fated royal collection from its foundation by Prince Henry, its augmentation by Charles I., and its partial dispersion during the Commonwealth, to its final destruction in 1698.

EARLY PRESS IN CANADA.

BY BENJAMIN SULTE.



T may be acceptable to furnish fresh information respecting Fleury Mesplet, the first French Printer established in Canada, (*Vide Antiquarian*, I. 58-61), and also of Jotard, who was the Editor of one of his Periodicals.

Before coming to Canada, Mesplet had been a Printer in Philadelphia, where (in 1774) he published *Lettre adressée aux habitants de la Province de Québec, de la part du Congrès Général de l'Amérique Septentrionale, tenu à Philadelphie*.

In the spring of 1776, he followed Franklin to Montreal, for the purpose of being useful to him as a printer. Very little work was done, if any, because the "Congress people" had to retire not long after.

As soon as this was over Mesplet went to Quebec, and there, with the means of the material of the *Quebec Gazette*, probably, brought to light one of the first Books issued out of a Canadian Press. It was nothing else but a reproduction of a volume of sacred songs, known as *Le Cantique de Marseille*. This took place in the same year, 1776. Fleury Mesplet, and Charles Berger's names appear on the title page.

They both are seen in Montreal exercising their art conjointly. They had their office, in the Market Place, the present Custom House Square. The Partnership did not last long, for in 1778, Mesplet started (in the two languages) the *Montreal Gazette*, which is still in existence.

Under the reign of General Haldimand, much dissatisfaction seem to have occupied the public mind. The French Canadians especially, complained of his manner of dealing with "Colonists." They were trying to raise a popular obstacle in his way. Mesplet complied with this feeling, and about 1779 started a political ("libellical paper" says a contemporary) newspaper, the first of this class, ever published on this continent. He was styled, *Tant pis, tant mieux*.

The writer of this somewhat remarkable introduction, was one Jotard, a Lawyer from France, who had undertaken openly the task of fighting Haldimand to the bitter end. The result could not be long doubtful.

Jotard and Mesplet, soon found themselves incarcerated in the Quebec Jail, and had to abandon their hazardous attack. There they met with other French prisoners, one of whom was Pierre de Sales Laterrière, formerly Director of the St. Maurice Forges, in which capacity he was accused of having favored the entrance of the American Forces in 1775, and assisted in their maintenance while in the country.

Pierre Du Colvet, then the leader, so to speak of the French malcontents, became also a companion of the three prisoners, and shared their confinement, as well as a Scotchman, by the name of Hay, a cooper of Quebec, charged with having kept correspondence with the enemy.

The picture of their captivity, drawn by Laterrière in his curious *Memoires*, (Manuscript), throws a very unfavorable light on the moral characters of both Mesplet and Jotard. Troublesome, impudent drunkards, such was the standing complaint made against them, during a period of some four years, which they spent together within the wall of the prison of Quebec.

Being all liberated (1783,) on the arrival of Lord Dorchester as Governor General, we find no further trace of Jotard, but Mesplet is heard of again, having founded *La Gazette Littéraire* in Montreal, about 1788.

THE NEW HOME.

(From "France and England in North America," by Francis Parkman).



WE have seen the settler landed and married ; let us follow him to his new home. At the end of Talon's administration, the head of the colony, that is to say the Island of Montreal and the borders of the Richelieu, was the seat of a peculiar colonization, the chief object of which was to protect the rest of Canada against Iroquois incursions. The lands along the Richelieu, from its mouth to a point above Chambly, were divided in large seigniorial grants among several officers of the regiment of Carignan, who in their turn granted out the land to the soldiers, reserving a sufficient portion as their own. The officer thus became a kind of feudal chief, and the whole settlement a permanent military cantonment admirably suited to the object in view. The disbanded soldier was practi-

cally a soldier still, but he was also a farmer and a landholder.

Talon had recommended this plan as being in accordance with the example of the Romans. "The practice of that politic and martial people," he wrote, "may, in my opinion, be wisely adopted in a country a thousand leagues distant from its monarch. And as the peace and harmony of people depend aboveall things on their fidelity to their sovereign, our first kings, better statesmen than is commonly supposed, introduced into newly conquered countries men of war, of approved trust, in order at once to hold the inhabitants to their duty within, and repel the enemy from without."

The troops were accordingly discharged, and settled not alone on the Richelieu, but also along the St. Lawrence, between Lake St. Peter and Montreal, as well as at some other points. The Sulpitians, feudal owners of Montreal, adopted a similar policy, and surrounded their island with a border of fiefs large and small, granted partly to officers and partly to humbler settlers, bold, hardy, and practised in bush-fighting. Thus a line of sentinels was posted around their entire shore, ready to give the alarm whenever an enemy appeared. About Quebec the settlements, covered as they were by those above, were for the most part of a more pacific character.

To return to the Richelieu. The towns and villages which have since grown upon its banks and along the adjacent shores of the St. Lawrence owe their names to these officers of Carignan, ancient lords of the soil: Sorel, Chambly, Saint Ours, Contrecoeur, Varennes, Verchères. Yet let it not be supposed that villages sprang up at once. The military seignior, valiant and poor as Walter the Penniless, was in no condition to work such magic. His personal possessions usually consisted of little but his sword and the money which the king had paid him for marrying a wife. A domain varying from half a league to six leagues in front on the river, and from half a league to two leagues in depth, had been

freely given him. When he had distributed a part of it in allotments to the soldiers, a variety of tasks awaited him : to clear and cultivate his land ; to build his seigniorial mansion, often a log hut ; to build a fort ; to build a chapel ; and to build a mill. To do all this at once was impossible. Chambly, the chief proprietor on the Richelieu, was better able than the others to meet the exigency. He built himself a good house, where, with cattle and sheep furnished by the king, he lived in reasonable comfort. The king's fort, close at hand, spared him and his tenants the necessity of building one for themselves, and furnished, no doubt, a mill, a chapel, and a chaplain. His brother officers, Sorel excepted, were less fortunate. They and their tenants were forced to provide defence as well as shelter. Their houses were all built together, and surrounded by a palisade, so as to form a little fortified village. The ever-active benevolence of the king had aided them in the task, for the soldiers were still maintained by him while clearing the lands and building the houses destined to be their own ; nor was it till this work was done that the provident government despatched them to Quebec with orders to bring back wives. The settler, thus lodged and wedded, was required on his part to aid in clearing lands for those who should come after them.

It was chiefly in the more exposed parts of the colony, that the houses were gathered together in palisaded villages, thus forcing the settler to walk or paddle some distance to his farm. He naturally preferred to build when he could on the front of his farm itself, near the river, which supplied the place of a road. As the grants of land were very narrow, his house was not far from that of his next neighbour, and thus a line of dwellings was ranged along the shore, forming what in local language was called a *côte*, a use of the word peculiar to Canada, where it still prevails.

The impoverished seignior rarely built a chapel. Most of the early Canadian churches were built with funds furnish-

ed by the seminaries of Quebec or of Montreal, aided by contributions of material and labor from the parishioners. Meanwhile mass was said in some house of the neighbourhood by a missionary priest, paddling his canoe from village to village, or from *côte* to *côte*.

The mill was an object of the last importance. It was built of stone and pierced with loopholes, to serve as a block-house in case of attack. The great mill at Montreal was one of the chief defences of the place. It was at once the duty and the right of the seignior to supply his tenants, or rather vassals, with this essential requisite, and they on their part were required to grind their grain at his mill, leaving the fourteenth part in payment. But for many years there was not a seignior in Canada, where this fraction would pay the wages of a miller ; and, except the ecclesiastical corporations, there were few seigniors who could pay the cost of building. The first settlers were usually forced to grind for themselves after the tedious fashion of the Indians.

Talon, in his capacity of counsellor, friend, and father to all Canada, arranged the new settlements near Quebec in the manner which he judged best, and which he meant to serve as an example to the rest of the colony. It was his aim to concentrate population around this point, so that, should an enemy appear, the sound of a cannon-shot from the Château St. Louis might summon a numerous body of defenders to this the common point of rendezvous. He bought a tract of land near Quebec, laid it out, and settled it as a model seignior, hoping, as he says, to kindle a spirit of emulation among the new made seigniors to whom he had granted lands from the king. He also laid out at the royal cost three villages in the immediate neighbourhood, planning them with great care, and peopling them partly with families newly arrived, partly with soldiers, and partly with old settlers, in order that the new-comers might take lessons from the experience of these veterans. That each village might be com-

plete in itself, he furnished it as well as he could with the needful carpenter, mason, blacksmith, and shoemaker. These inland villages, called respectively Bourg Royal, Bourg la Reine, and Bourg Talon, did not prove very thrifty. Wherever the settlers were allowed to choose for themselves, they ranged their dwellings along the watercourses. With the exception of Talon's villages, one could have seen nearly every house in Canada, by paddling a canoe up the St. Lawrence and the Richelieu. The settlements formed long thin lines on the edges of the rivers; a convenient arrangement, but one very unfavorable to defence, to ecclesiastical control, and to strong government. The king soon discovered this; and repeated orders were sent to concentrate the inhabitants and form Canada into villages, instead of *côtes*. To do so would have involved a general revocation of grants and abandonment of houses and clearings, a measure too arbitrary and too wasteful, even for Louis XIV., and one extremely difficult to enforce. Canada persisted in attenuating herself, and the royal will was foiled.

For a year or two, the settler's initiation was a rough one; but when he had a few acres under tillage he could support himself and his family on the produce, aided by hunting, if he knew how to use a gun, and by the bountiful profusion of eels which the St. Lawrence never failed to yield in their season, and which, smoked or salted, supplied his larder for months. In winter he hewed timber, sawed planks, or split shingles for the market of Quebec, obtaining in return such necessaries as he required. With thrift and hard work he was sure of comfort at last; but the former habits of the military settlers and of many of the others were not favorable to a routine of dogged industry. The sameness and solitude of their new life often became insufferable; nor, married as they had been, was the domestic hearth likely to supply much consolation. Yet, thrifty or not, they multiplied apace. "A poor man," says Mother Mary, "will have

eight children and more, who run about in winter with bare heads and bare feet, and a little jacket on their backs, live on nothing but bread and eels, and on that grow fat and stout." With such treatment the weaker sort died ; but the strong survived, and out of this rugged nursing sprang the hardy Canadian race of bush-rangers and bush-fighters.

CELEBRATED ORIGINAL CHARACTERS.

IN a Volume entitled "Three years in Canada" by John Mactaggart, Civil Engineer in the service of the British Government at the building of the Rideau Canal, published in 1829, we find the following interesting sketches of original characters :

The chief of these is *Philemon Wright, Esq.*, of Hull, a Bostonian, who came to Canada about thirty-six years ago with 30,000 dollars. Rummaging through the country in quest of land, he came upon the Ottawa River, and proceeded up to the *Falls of Chaudiere*, in a canoe. "There," says the *Squire*, "I clambered up a tree, and on looking round, found myself at the head of the navigation : there I saw a number of rivers, as it were, pouring into one : the country, by the appearance of the timber, seemed fit for agriculture. 'Here shall I take up my abode,' I exclaimed, 'for this will become a place of vast importance in due time, although it is now nothing but a howling wilderness.'" Being pleased thus far, he hastened back to Quebec, and took out his *deeds*, invited some of his people to follow him, came back up the river 100 miles from any neighbours, and there commenced operations in earnest, levelled down the forest, built houses, raised large crops of grain, and bred many cattle, pigs, and poultry. In a short time, he had more than a thousand acres cleared, and the township swarming with people. The Indians could not understand this : they became alarmed

lest their whole territory should be taken from them ; but Mr. Wright quieted their fears, gave them tobacco, and granted them many indulgences. Struggling on for about fifteen years, he found himself as wealthy a man as any in the whole country. He kept an extensive store, and supplied the traders with timber and fur, of which they stood in need ; he also put up a saw and grist mill ; and numerous were the wares he conducted down the river to Quebec. Had all the people who have gone to Canada as much genuine *enterprise* as Philemon, the country would have presented a different appearance to-day from what it does. He soon became well-known far and near ; improved the breed of his cattle ; became a great favourite at the court of his Governors, and colonel of his own regiment of militia ; sent his son *Ruggles* to England and France, to observe the manners and improvements of Europe—a trip that cost the old gentleman something to the tune of £3,000, but that he grudged not. How contented was he when his son returned, with a beautiful *bull*, and a *he-goat*, of the most renowned ancestors !

The township of Hull now became a fashionable resort ; a splendid hotel was built ; livery stables were well stalled ; a steam-boat set a-going ; flag-staff and bell erected ; while a magazine was filled with gunpowder ; and an armoury richly filled with cannons, muskets, and swords. The howling wilderness vanished ; the bears and wolves sought more remote regions. But this was not all, nor the half of all ; churches, and chapels, and schools were built ; and priests, surgeons, school-masters, and lawyers, were frequently to be met with at Hull. *Free-masonry* also flourished : the *squire* was a *Royal Arch-mason* ; procured a character ; opened a lodge in high style ; while all the men of character about flocked in, and became members of the ancient craft. He was a perfect Jacob, and yet is truly an *American* ; but a loyal man to *Hull*—and that is quite enough. He has also a kind heart ; and will differ with none, unless an infringe-

ment be attempted on his lands. He is about six feet high ; a tight man, with a wonderfully strange, quick, reflective, wild eye. No one is more the father of his people than he ; when he has been from home at any time, on his coming back guns are fired, bells rung, and flags waved. He is now about seventy years of age, but quite healthy, and can undergo any fatigue ; the most severe cold is nothing to him, and as for the heat, he minds it as little. All his enjoyments are of a singular kind ; there is some domesticity about him, but not much. Talk of schemes of the wildest enterprise, and he is then in his glory ; and if he can get any one to meet his views, how happy he is ! It was he who first proposed the *Rideau Canal* ; and I have heard him, with pleasure, propose many other works equally great and ingenious. Mr. Galt amused the people of Quebec, by producing him on the stage, in the character of *Obadiah Quincy, Bunker*, from Boston : the worthy old gentleman used to sit in the *box*, and laugh heartily at himself.

Captain Andrew Wilson, R. N.

This gentleman is one of the most notable *factotums* to be met with in Canada. He is at once a *profound lawyer*, with all the acts of the provincial legislatures on the top of his tongue, at a moment's warning ; and at home, a *farmer of the first rate*—will talk you blind about raising bullocks, wheat, onions, what not ; an *author* too—has published in three volumes octavo a *naval history*, fraught with tactics and sea affairs. At his house on the banks of Rideau,—*Ossian hall*, as he is pleased to term it,—there is the best library that ever was taken into the wilderness ; books of all sorts ; and a *vade-mecum* full of sea scenes, and drawings of ships in action and out of it, while the outline of many a headland, cape, and bay, is there portrayed : this valuable album he terms the sailor's hornpipe. Set the captain fully a-going, get him out to sea, some grog a-board, and how he dashes

away! One would imagine, to hear him, that there never was a battle fought on the ocean but he had the pleasure of being in it. He was often with me in the woods. On engineering exploits the captain was an excellent rummager, and understood the nature of creeks and gullies well. Presenting him with a map of a part of the wilderness he was well acquainted with, "Yes Sir," he exclaimed, "it is the thing, Sir: there is *Otterson's House*, to an inch Sir; you have marked the Deer Lick, Sir,—I know it well,—many a day I have been there with my gun, Sir. You have made your name immortal in the woods."

There was a dam, however, which we were building, that did not please the Captain; and he used to reprobate it thus: "You are no engineers, I will tell you to your faces, gentlemen; where will ye be when the floods come fifteen feet at a start,—when the ice of the lakes gives way,—when the snows, trees, houses, and all the banks come before it?—where are ye, gentlemen?" Matters did not turn out just so ill however, as he suspected they would.

He is a Justice of peace, and Notary public too; signed not only R.N. to his name, but J.P. and N.P. Married many an amorous couple; although this is said to be against the law, if a clergyman be within fifteen miles: however, what cared the noble captain? "he had soul and body to look after; he had the county of Bathurst to govern; the Perth lawyers to regulate; the roads to lay out; and more to do than all Downing street." However, his importance was not so great as he would have us believe; indeed, with those who really knew him, he seemed quite aware of this, and would good-naturedly laugh at his own nonsense. There was one thing he insisted on, but never could prove to me its correctness, that every tree in forest, great and small, was worth a dollar. If such be the case, Canada is much more valuable than I am led to believe it is. He held his weekly courts at By-town. And really, to see the Captain on the bench, with

his anchor-button coat, attending gravely to the examinations of witnesses, taking off his spectacles, occasionally wiping them, and then carefully laying them across his nose again, while the court of ignorance was marking his every motion,—the scene was highly ludicrous. Of this he was perfectly sensible, but it was an amusement to him; he liked to be consulted, to make speeches, to have his pockets crammed with documents, and all the world following him.

Chief Mac Nab.

This is a real chieftain from the Highlands of Scotland, domiciled in Canada, with a numerous clan about him. He received the grant of a whole township of good wild land on the banks of the *Lake de Chats* :—this is a beautiful place ! Here stand the castle of Mac Nab, surrounded by the houses of his followers. He annually sells off his estate an immense quantity of fine pine-timber ; and moves about through the provinces occasionally with his tail, dressed always in full Highland costume, the piper going before, playing perhaps the *Hacks o' Cromdale*, or the *Campbells are coming*. We were well acquainted ; and on my once addressing him Mr. Mac Nab, he checked me—" Sir, (said he) I thought you had known better : nothing but Mac Nab, if you please ; Mr. does not belong to me." I held myself corrected, and kindly thanked him, of course. Many emigrants come out to him every year ; some lovely Highland girls ; he meets them at Quebec, and escorts them up to the land of timber instead of heather. He is yet but a young man, very cheerful, and full of enthusiasm about Scotland : a thing rarely met with amongst people beyond the Atlantic.

— Lieutenant-Governor Archibald, for the Dominion Government, presented a gold watch to Conductor Edwards of the W. & A. Railway, and a medal to Conductor Clark and to Brakesman Geldert (of the I. C. R.) for their services in saving life.—*St. Johns, N. B. Freeman.*

AN ESSAY UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
ENGLISH PLANTATIONS, ON THE
CONTINENT OF AMERICA.



HAVING in course of a hunt through the parliamentary library at Ottawa, come across an old manuscript volume bearing the above title, we have ventured to make a few extracts from it. It is written in a fine bold hand, by whom, it is not known, save from the following marginal note in another handwriting "Supposed to be writt by Mr. Blaire, a minister in Virginia, March 10th., 1699, or by B. Hamson, Junior." It is interesting as having been written by a native of Virginia, as the following paragraph clearly shows :

" It may be objected that I being an inhabitant of the Plantations, may probably be too much byassed to their interest, and therefore am not to be relyed on."

From the part relating to the circulation which we here produced in full, we find our essayist strongly objecting, (something unusual for a colonial politician of those times), to raising the standard of the colonial currency ; which arguments, while in the right direction, still hold to the falacy, then believed by colonists in general, that raising the standard ment in some way raising the value of money, and by that means drawing it too and retaining it in the colony.

" As of late many controversies have arisen in the English Nation, as 'tis observable, that the two great topicks of trade and plantations have had their parts in the dispute ; and indeed it must be confessed, that considering the present circumstances of the world they are of the greatest importance to all nations, but more especially the English. * * *

The design of these papers is not to treat of the trade, but the government of the plantations, not how to make them great and rich by an open free traffic, but happy by a just and equall government, that they may enjoy their ob-

scurity, and the poor way of liveing, which nature is pleased to afford them out of the earth, in peace, and be protected in the possession thereof by their lawful Mother England. I am sensible the English plantations may be rendered very serviceable and beneficial to their mother kingdoms, and I do not in the least doubt she will make the best advantage of them she can, 'tis what others would do if they were in her place ; and therefore I shall not complain of any hardship in trade, neither shall it be mentioned, but as it comes in the way in pursuit of the main design I have laid down.

• • • The chiefest things wanting to make the inhabitants of these plantations happy, is a good Constitution of governmet, and it seems strange that so little care hath been heretofore taken of that, since it could not be any prejudice, but of great advantage even to England itself, as perhaps may appear by what shall be offered hereafter. * * * That one certain standard for all sorts of coin, be settled in the plantations on the Continent, which standard I humbly conceive should be as near the intrinsik value of sterlg' as may be.

But here perhaps it may be objected that bringing that standard of money down to the intrinsik value, would be very injurious to the propprieties who have always sett a higher value upon their money.

These plantations are in great want of money, and the readiest way to make it plenty amongst them is to enhance the value.

To the first of these objections I answer, that tho' indeed we ought, as near as may be, to accomadate all Laws and other publick transactions, to the interest of every inividuall party concerned, yet when some must suffer, it is reasonable to steer that course which seems most equitable, and hath the greatest tendency towards the welfare of the whole ; and if it appears to be the interest both of England and the plantations (taken generally together) as well hereafter as at pre-

sent, to ascertain the standard of the coin as near as may be, to the intrinsick sterg' value, then I think this objection will be sufficiently answered.

To the second objection I answer, that it is probable, enhancing the value of coin may bring in money for the present, but what will be the consequence of that ? will it not confound the method of our trade ? will it not destroy our exchange ? and how many, and how great evils follow upon that, no one can (I think) pretend to foresee ; 'tis possible many arguments may be drawn for the present necessity, and it may be urged that extraordinary diseases must have the like cures ; but I cannot perceive the weight of such an allegation, nor can I apprehend the advantages that may be proposed ; we here are but a handfull of people, and have no other trade but plain barter, between England and us, and amongst our neighbouring plantations ; and certainly the best way for us must be to keep our coin ; which is the measure of trade and traffick, as near as may be to equall the real value sett upon it by the prudencce of our comon Mother, best by making alterations in it, we give opportunity to some sharp English Merchants to put such tricks upon us as we cannot foresee ; they have great advantages of us, if their inclinations tend that way, they are skilled in trade and exchange, which we cannot pretend to ; they have much the largest purses, and can outdo us at anything whenever they please ; and besides all this, they have daily opportunities of looking abroad in the world, and have many prospects of advantage, which we that are shut up in America know nothing of. For a further answer to both these objections, I beg leave to offer the following particulars to consideration :—

1st. That it is not necessary for the plantations to have more money than just so much as is sufficient to manage their trade, and that they will have, in a few years, when trade and the coin, is settled upon an equall foot.

2nd. That it is not expedient for England to give the plan-

tations opportunities of laying up great banks of treasure among themselves.

3rd. That if enhancing the value of coin should bring great quantities of it, in these northern plantations, more than the carrying out of trade require ; it would be just so much lost to England, for none can come hither, but that which otherwise would have gone thither.

4th. That the differences of coin would cause great difficulties in making up accounts of publick revenues, and give great opportunities of defrauding the King of the exchange.

5th. It would be very discouraging to all Officers in the Colonies, who have certain yearly salaries established, especially Governors, and Lieutenant Governors, for they could not possibly remitt any money to England their necessary occasions, without great loss by the exchange.

'Tis true their last mentioned inconveniences may be remedied, but not without more than ordinary trouble. * * *

By these means (it is probable) the King and Court of England may be thoroughly sensible of the true state of affairs in this remote part of the world, which it is presumed will be the first and greatest towards remedying any former mismanagement.

Virginia, March 10th, 1699."

THE FIRST ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP.



Mr. A. McDonald, writes to the *London Times* :—
 " Sir John Hawkshaw, in his address before the British Association, falls into a common and hereto uncorrected error respecting the first steamship which crossed the Atlantic. Five years before the 'Sirius' and 'Great Western' made their successful attempts to do this, the steamship 'Royal William' sailed from Quebec on the 18th of August, 1833, and after two or three days' detention at Pictou, Nova Scotia, arrived at

Gravesend on the 11th of September, thus making the trip in about the same time as that taken by the first Cunard boats to Boston. The 'Royal William' was built at Three Rivers, and fitted at the St. Mary's Foundry, Montreal, with engines made in Britain. So far as my boyish recollection of the vessel serves me, I think she was about 500 tons burden. I remember very well her departure for Britain, but in order to be sure I called at Lloyd's some weeks ago and was courteously shown the register for Sept. 12, 1833, in which I found, under 'Gravesend,' the announcement of arrivals on the 11th, the following:—'Steamship 'Royal William,' McDougall, Quebec.' Several years before a vessel called the 'Savannah,' fitted with an engine and paddles, crossed from Savannah, Ga., in thirty-one days. The paddles were removable. Her engines were only used eighteen days. When the 'Savannah' entered the Channel off the coast of Ireland the smoke from her funnel brought down upon her a gun brig detached from the Channel Squadron, under the impression that she was a ship on fire. The 'Savannah' was a full rigged ship, and although she advertised her sailing and for passengers, no one was brave enough to ship aboard of her. As the 'Savannah' was not a steamship, but merely a sailing vessel, with a temporary arrangement for steaming on board, to the Canadian 'Royal William' must be accorded the honor of being the pioneer of our present large Atlantic steam fleet. What became of this vessel subsequently I am uncertain, but have an impression that she was sold to the Portuguese Government.

ENGLISH COINAGE PATTERNS AND PROOFS.



COLLECTION well worthy of attention, as showing the past and present condition of the art work of the Mint, is now to be seen at the sale rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge.

At first sight there would seem to be no special interest in a

collection of this nature, which might be supposed to represent merely the currency of the realm in perfect condition as it comes from the die, but this is far from what it really is, for the pieces in circulation are the exceptions, and it is the various patterns which from some cause or other have been rejected and condemned to the shelf, and the proof coins finally approved, though not always put into circulation, which are sought for by collectors. Some examples are exceptionally curious, as the pattern half-crown in this collection, once in the Hawkins cabinet, which was struck in 1864, to be placed under the Albert Memorial, of which none were put in circulation. This is similar in type to the Victoria half-crown of 1839. Another feature which gives great beauty and richness to these *recherché* cabinets is that coins of the lowest value in the currency appear resplendent in gold. Thus we see a gold broad rim farthing of 1797 (No 64), weighing 13 pennyweights 6 grains, and several other farthings, halfpennies, and pennies in gold, among which should be noticed a gold halfpenny of 1790 (No. 60), the die by an artist named Droz, bearing the figure of Britannia seated on a globe, holding a spear and shield, and pointing with the right hand, the edge inscribed with "Render to Cesar (*sic*) the things which are Cesar's." The false spelling of the motto, and the very bad head of George III., were quite enough to condemn such a coin as this, which, however, is prized more for these defects, and is rare from not having been issued. It will be understood that the "patterns" are those struck from dies which were not used, of which the number is considerable, while the "proofs" are those approved, though it does not follow that these, even, have passed into use. In looking over the pattern coins by the different engravers employed, and even those by the same hand, it is surprising to see how the features of the Sovereign are varied, often exaggerated to the destruction of the likeness, sometimes rather too exact to be agreeable to the Royal approv-

al. None of the earlier heads in this collection, which embraces the Hanoverian Sovereigns only, beginning from the shillings and half-pence in silver of George I., 1717-23, can be considered as good as they might have been made in the hands of better artists. It is not till we come to the pattern five-guinea piece of Geo. III., 1770, that work of superior merit is to be observed in the young bust of the King, with a love-lock and long hair upon the shoulders, by an artist named Tanner. Another five-guinea piece, 1777, similar, but with the hair curling extravagantly below the "truncation," is by Yeo, who, with Tanner and an Italian named Pingo, were, it appears, the medallists for the Mint till Thomas Wyon began with W. Wyon, the former of whom cut the die for the sovereign of 1816, after the model by Pistrucci, which was a cameo in jasper, now preserved in the Mint. This pattern sovereign (No. 39) bears a laureated head of King George III., remarkably fine in style. Pistrucci was a distinguished cameo worker at Rome—so skilful, in fact, that it was to his hand, and not to an antique gem engraver's, that the fine head of Flora, long regarded as the choicest of the Payne Knight collection, was due. Lord Maryborough was a patron of his, and when Master of the Mint appointed him chief engraver; and at the great reform of the coinage, in 1816, Pistrucci adapted his fine cameo of a Greek warrior on horseback to the St. George and Dragon, so well known on the sovereigns of the present reign—a design which was afterwards enlarged for the crown pieces of George IV., and which has been pronounced the finest work that has ever appeared upon a modern currency. Several excellent specimens of Pistrucci's work are to be seen among the pattern crowns and sovereigns, both in gold and silver; but there is no specimen of his fine Coronation medal, which was struck at the accession of George IV. A pattern crown in gold (No. 55), date 1818, should be noticed as in every respect a superb work of Pistrucci, though it is fairly rivalled by the ordi-

nary crown piece of 1819 (No. 82), of the usual circulated type. With these should be compared the pattern crown-piece designed by W. Wyon (No. 53), in gold, which is remarkable for the group of three female draped figures on the reverse, emblematical of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the motto "Foedus Inviolabile." Another crown of this date, seven only of which are presumed to have been struck, bears on the reverse the Royal arms crowned with motto "Incorrupta Fides Veritasque." The pattern five-pound piece, 1820 (No. 22), bearing the St. George and Dragon, and the double sovereign (23), both by Pistrucci, should be mentioned as good examples of his work. As an example of bad taste may be pointed out the pattern guineas of 1813 (31, 32), which have for the reverse the Royal Standard floating from a flag-staff, with the motto "Britann. Rex", &c. Another singular error of the kind may be noticed in the silver pattern crown piece of 1820, which bears the truncated bust of George IV., with the high collar and cravat of the period. The coinage during the reign of William IV., seems to have been remarkable chiefly for its scantiness: the bust of the King however, appears well placed upon the field of the coin, and the likeness is characteristic and true, especially in the crowns; but the St. George and Dragon of Pistrucci is discontinued, and in its place the reverse is the Royal shield encircled with the collar and badge of St. George. With the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria came five-pound pattern pieces by Mr. Wyon, bearing on the obverse the bust of the Queen with the diadem and fillet, and "W. Wyon, R. A.," in raised letters on the neck; on the reverse a new design entirely representing the Queen as *Una* with the Lion, wearing the garter on the left shoulder. It is not to be wondered at that none of the coins bearing this very fanciful device were ever adopted for circulation. The handsomest piece is the proof crown of 1847 in gold (214), called the "Gothic" from its design, which differs but slightly from the

"Gothic" crown in circulation, A proof in gold of the so-called "Dei Gratia" florin of 1848 (215) is curious, as having neither the letters "D.G." nor "F.D." The Mint, if we may judge from the number of condemned patterns in this collection, seems to have been rather prolific in experimental pieces. Here are patterns of 1848 for centums, decades, and dimes, some marked as "100 Mills," others "One Dime," with some patterns also for an international coinage in 1867, of ducats and double florins. The ducat is considered exceedingly rare. It bears the bust of the Queen, and on the reverse "One Hundred pence," and within an oak wreath "One Ducat." Some rare pattern shillings, formerly in Mr. Bergne's collection, the work of an engraver belonging to the Belgian Mint, who was employed in 1863, by Professor Graham, F.R.S., then Master of the Mint, are worth noticing as specimens of very feeble work, which was deservedly condemned, also on account of the very poor portrait of the Queen. The Colonial coins are, generally speaking, very commonplace specimens of the medallist's art. The best, perhaps, is the Hong Kong dollar of 1864, which is a handsome piece, having the bust of the Queen, with reverse of four shields arranged crosswise, as on the florins and half-crowns.—*Times, August 14, 1875.*

HENRY VIII. CROWN.



VERY now and then in our collecting experience we come across an individual, who with full assurance and seeming accuracy, describes to us a Coin the like of which we have never seen. Our interest is at once awakened, yet we know that hardly anything of that nature could have escaped the observation of so many years of collecting. We express a doubt as to its genuineness. He reassures us, and to our many questions gives a clear

statement. We are carried away with it against our better judgment. Could that Coin but be added to our Collection and we shall have become possessed of a rarity far more valuable than any owned by our confreres. Where is this Coin, and how may it be obtained? is our next question. And likely he can give us no further information; or we are sent off on a fool's errand. But occasionally while expressing a stronger doubt the coin is produced. It proves to our disappointment, and yet inward satisfaction, to be some well known type; in the description of which our would-be virtuoso, with a memory, gossip like, has so added to and amended the original design and legend, that the designer even, could not recognize his own. Sometimes when going to the receptacle of such treasure to produce in triumph ocular proof, the coin cannot be found. The drawer is turned upside down and inside out

“ But no, no such thing
They can't find the ring.

And the owner declares that when nobody twigged it
Some rascal or other had popp'd in and prigg'd it.”

But what, you will ask, has all this to do with a Coin of the last of the Henrys? It is that, seemingly to us, some departed collector has had a similar experience in connection with it. For in the series of plates, illustrating the celebrated Pembroke collection, a Coin is represented, which has been classed as a Crown of Henry VIII. It may be described as follows:

OBVERSE:—HENRIE: 8 DEI GRACIA * ANGLIE * FRANCIE: Z HIBERN * REX * Half length figure of the King robed; face nearly full, in the right hand a sword, and in the left a Globe; M M, a *fleur-de-lis*.

REVERSE:—ANGLICE * Z HIBERNICE: ECCLSIE SUPREMUM: CAPUT. Royal Arms quartered and Crown-

ed having as supporters a lion to left, and a dragon to right, H. R. beneath the shield.

The collection lay for many years in the musty vaults of the bank where they had been placed for safe keeping. And when brought to light to be catalogued for sale the cases were almost falling to pieces from decay. So frail were they that some of the Coins dropped through to the floor of the vault, although most, if not all of them, were afterwards recovered. But the Crown of Henry VIII., was wanting, nor could the owner find any trace of it. In fact none of the older collectors could give any information concerning it or its antecedents.

We may therefore class, this now celebrated Crown, as one of those myths emanating from the fertile brain of a clever draughtsman, or from the ideas received by him from some enthusiastic but unreliable numismatist. Collectors who have been several times thus deceived, receive such descriptions with caution if not incredulity.

R. W. McL.

THE FIRST WATER PIPES LAID IN MONTREAL.



SHORT time ago, while new water pipes were being laid in St. Francois Xavier Street, a number of the old wooden ones were turned out. And curiosity leading us to examine them more closely, the following is the result of our observation.

These pipes proved to have been made, principally, from spruce, and were in a remarkably good state of preservation; better, apparently, than the Iron ones, of a more recent date, that were being replaced. Each pipe, or rather log, measured about six feet in length, with a varying diameter averaging from twelve to fourteen inches; while the bore, a truly small one, was not one quarter of the diameter. One end

of each log was sharpened or cut down, so as to be driven into the larger end of the next one. This end having an iron tire or ring to prevent it from splitting during the operation.

While so large, and apparently strong, compared with the size of the bore, these pipes were incapable of resisting any great pressure ; so that water could be conveyed only to houses built on the lower levels and to the lower apartments even of those. The supply also being limited, it was not available, save to a part of the citizens.

As regards their history ; by turning back to the year 1801, we learn that a Company was chartered to supply the City with water. In a comparatively short space of time pipes were laid through the principal streets, and the inhabitants supplied with pure water from a reservoir at the back of the Mountain. Other accounts give the priest's farm as the location of this early reservoir. But on account of frequent bursting, and the limited number of consumers, the undertaking did not prove a financial success. Having come across an advertisement in an early number of the *Montreal Herald*, bearing on the subject, we reproduce it in full :

THE Proprietors of the Montreal WATER WORKS inform those persons who take the Water, that the heavy expense which they have incurred in bringing the works to their present state of perfection renders it necessary for them to insist on the strict performance of the conditions on which they supply the water ; and that therefore they cannot fail to prosecute all persons who may henceforward furnish therewith in any quantity, others residing out of their families and not taking the same, They further request all persons indebted to them to pay their respective balances due to the Company.

JOSEPH FOROBISHER, TREASURER
of the Montreal Water Company.
g—t t.

Montreal, June 29, 1808.

After several attempts and failures by different Companies and private individuals, the water supply was undertaken by the Corporation. We might mention, in passing, that for a

time the water works was owned by Thos. Porteous, who also was proprietor of the bridges for which the *Boute de l'isle* tokens were issued as passes. In 1847, a prize of £100 was offered for the best plan for a more extended water supply, and our present system is the result.

Contrasting these perforated logs with the early iron pipes by which they were replaced, and with those by which they in their turn are being replaced, we have three well marked eras in the history of our City. It was a step out and away up towards a higher civilized condition, when the citizens could avail themselves of the priceless boon of pure water brought within their own dwellings. Although intermittent and scanty, how much better than the supply drawn from typhoid wells, or from the muddy and polluted margin of the St. Lawrence. Yet it was a much longer stride when a full and unfailing supply was made available for all ; when, as was told by a historian of the time (1839,) Montreal had the best water supply of any City on the Continent, save Philadelphia. Yet again we mark, in the increased capacity and the enormous machinery of our present supply, still greater advances, and may we not hope, looking at the past and present, for much further progress in the future, when the present order of things, as the previous ones, shall have come under the domain of the Antiquary.

R. W. McL.

THE MEDALLIC ART.

AN ACCOUNT OF MEDALS OLD AND NEW.



E ought to look on medals as so many monuments consigned over to eternity, that may possibly last when all other memorials of the same age are worn out or lost." So writes Addison in 1726, in his "Dialogues upon the usefulness of Ancient Medals." He then goes on to plead that medals shall represent as ac-

curately as possible the dress and customs of the time of their issue. Evelyn, again, in his "discourse of Medals," insists on the importance, from an ethnological point of view, of accuracy in portraiture and types of race, and urges that medals should be truthful in these respects. Whether or not it is possible always fulfill these conditions, it is, at least, as important that a medal should in some way represent the style of art of the period in which it is struck. In a certain degree coins come under the category of medals, almost as much as those which are struck especially for a commemorative purpose ; and in this sense the designs for the coins of our own day have been much criticized.

The oldest known English medal bears date 1480, and is the work of an Italian artist ; but in the reign of Henry VIII., medals were still uncommon in this country. An interesting paper on this subject by the Deputy Master of the Mint, in his annual report, states that several examples of medals struck in the reign of Queen Mary are extant, one of the best of which is one of the Queen herself, by Trezzo. This medal represents the Queen, looking to the left, with a close fitting head-dress reaching down to her ears, and almost hiding her hair. Her features are coarse, and there is a very determined expression in her mouth. The words "Maria I. Reg. Angl. Franc. et Hib. X." are in the margin. The medal, an autotype of which is given among others in the report alluded to, shows great power and artistic skill ; it is bold in execution, and the detail is not too "niggling."

"According to Pinkerton ('Essay on Medals,' London, 1870), no medals appear in any country in Europe, till the Fifteenth Century, with the exception of the gold medals of David II., issued in Scotland between 1330 and 1370 ; but as early as 1439, mention is made of a gold medal of the Council of Florence, and from that time the art continued to flourish in Italy. The medals of this period were modelled in wax and cast in fine sand, and were afterwards in some

cases finished with the graving tool." Very different the method now adopted, by which, medals are struck by the thousand, in the same way in which coins are struck off. Whether modern medals are equal to the ancient productions as works of art the collection at the British Museum will show. The thirteen medals selected as models by Mr. Fremantle will give a good idea of the difference between the best ancient styles and the taste of the present day. The first of these is a Syracusan coin, representing Philistis, wife of Hieron II., a small coin about the size of our shilling, with a finely drawn woman's head, without any attempt at decoration or minute elaboration. The medieval Italian and German styles are represented by two medals two and one-eighth inches in diameter, one by Albrecht Durer, the head of a girl, date 1508. "The Papal medals, commencing with the Pontificate of Paul II., 1464, many of which were designed by Raffaele, Giulio Romano, Francia Cellini, and other great artists," are reckoned to be the most beautiful of the medals of this date. Next to Italy, France was the country most remarkable for medals; but the French medals were neither fine nor numerous until the reign of Louis XIV., which produced many works of good design and execution. About the close of the Fifteenth Century, medals began to be struck instead of being cast, and greater finish of workmanship was no doubt thereby attained.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth many English medals were struck, but none deserve special mention, except one to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada, bearing the device of a fleet scattered by the winds, and the legend "*Afflavat Deus, et dissipati sunt.*" This, however, is not extant. Medals became numerous in the reign of Charles I., whose artistic tastes are well known. In this reign, and subsequently under the Commonwealth, the works of Thomas Simon, the greatest of English medallists, form an important era in the history of medals. A fine example, representing

the head of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, is given in the plate accompanying the report. After these, no remarkable medals occur till the reign of Queen Anne, in which a series appeared commemorating the victories of Marlborough. In the medals of succeeding reigns the style gradually tended towards a revival of Roman types, and this style has survived, with few exceptions, until within a comparatively recent period. As an instance, may be mentioned the Crimean war medal, the reverse of which represents Victory crowning a warrior equipped in Roman armor. The Napoleonic medals are pseudo classic in design, but are generally creditable to the French art. A characteristic example of this style by Andrien is shown in the plate, representing Victory, seated, inscribing records on a tablet, with a second figure overlooking her. To the left is a tower, with the names of the battles gained in Germany, inscribed on horizontal bands.

The small head of Queen Caroline, beautifully modeled by Pistrucci, chief medallist of the Mint from 1817 to 1851, is a successful imitation of Greek art, and is admirably reproduced in the autotype. The style which prevailed a little later is represented by the "ornamental" medals, the designs of which are nothing but groups of shields, helmets, cannon, musical instruments, cannon balls, etc.—a style, which was followed in the medals designed for the New Zealand and Ashantee wars. The obverse of the "florin" or two shilling piece, and that of the half crown, are samples of this.

The latest war medal is that struck for the Ashantee campaign. The design for the reverse, is by Mr. E. J. Poynter, A.R.A., who also designed the reverse of the medal annually given to the best shot in the army. The latter represents an archer holding his target in his hand, with three arrows in the centre, for the approval of a female figure, representing Victory, who is crowning him with a laurel wreath.

This allegorical style was chosen in consequence of the difficulty occasioned by the fact that every regiment has a different uniform, and as all branches of the service can compete for the medal, it would be impossible otherwise to adapt the differences in dress to a uniform standard to represent the whole. In the case of the Ashantee medal this difficulty is obviated by the fact that a special dress was adopted for the campaign. The reverse shows a struggle between natives and the British troops in a wood, and all the combatants are represented in their actual condition at the time. The medal thus becomes a picture of the particular occasion it is designed to commemorate. The execution is very fine and lifelike. The obverse in both these medals, designed and executed by Mr. Leonard Wyon, is the head of Her Majesty—a much more faithful portrait than is to be found on any of our coins.

These last productions of the Mint give good evidence that the taste for artistic design is increasing, and we are glad to see that the authorities are alive to the importance of keeping up the style of our medals to the standard of the best efforts of the ancients.

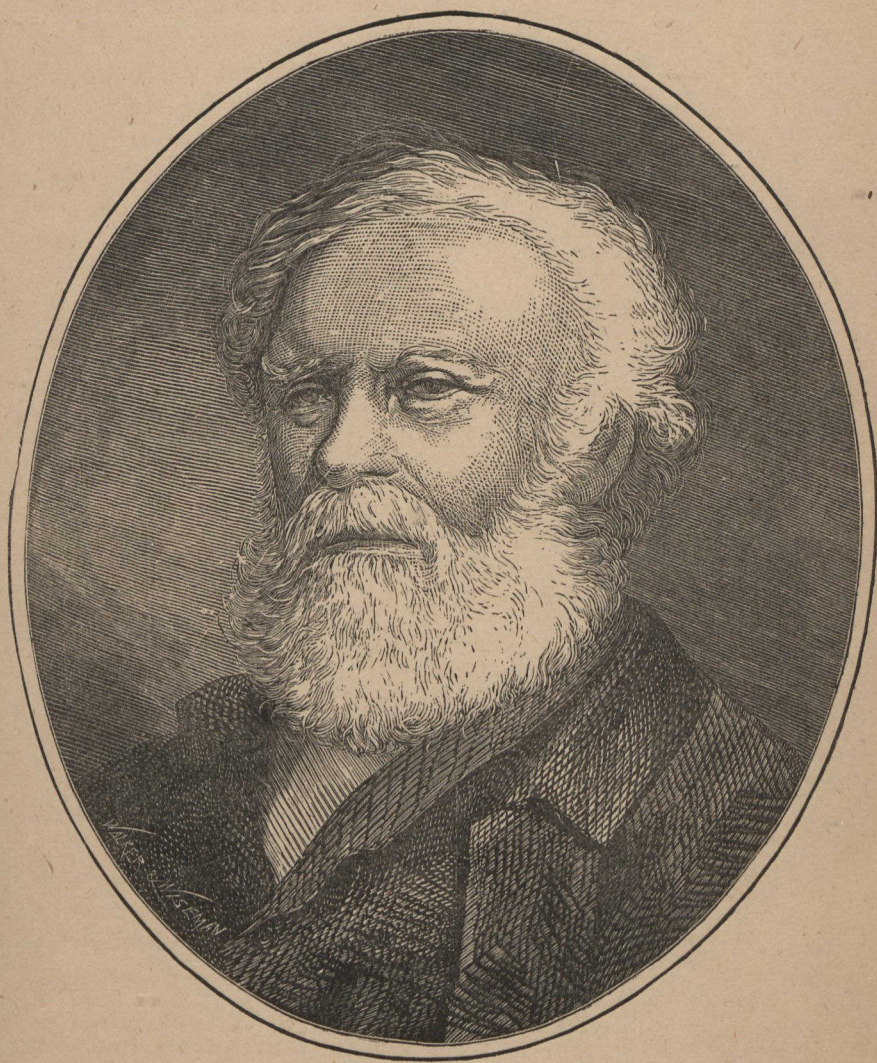
SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD.



HE subject of the present engraving was born at Rochester England, in 1793. Entering the Royal Engineers when a youth, he showed considerable bravery, having had two horses shot under him at Waterloo. After residing for a number of years in different parts of the world, he was appointed Governor of Upper Canada, in 1835.

He acted with firmness during the troublesome times of 1837. Many attribute the rebellion of 1838 to his (supposed) mismanagement of affairs in the country.

On his return to England in 1839, he published a sketch



SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD.

of the events which occurred during his administration. He died, aged 83, in July last, having long refrained from taking part in political or literary events.

EDITORIAL.

JUST a hundred years ago, Ethan Allen crossed the St. Lawrence, and landed at Longue Point with 150 men. Flushed with the successful capture of Fort-Ticonderoga and Crown Pointe, and relying on the assistance of traitors within, he expected to make an easy capture of Montreal.

Before going into action, Governor Carleton reviewed the troops on Place d'Armes.

The total force at command was 300 raw militia, and about 25 regulars. The next day, Oct. 25th, this force marched out, and with small loss captured Ethan Allen and the whole of his troops.

Below we give a copy of a note written to him some time previous to the engagement.

" LONGGAUL, Sept ye 22nd, 1775, at
9 at night.

Col. Allyn in haste I arrived at this place this moment with 63 men and find a gang of Cannadions they hav news from Morrecall that they intend to attack us at this place this night or as soon as posabel, the Canad^m expect it—Col. Leviston hath just sent in an éxpress hear and their is a party to our assistens on their march from Shambole expected this night. I am advised to send to you to send a party or com as soon as ma be if not needed where you now be.

Col. Warner is at Laporary with about 120 men. Sunderland hath just returned from Cockanawauga this day to us for want of time.

I conclud My Self your sincear friend,
John Grant, Capt."

-- The workmen employed in making alterations to Messrs. Fry's premises, in the Pithay, Bristol, have, in the course of their operations, come upon interesting relics of ancient Bristol. The buildings on which they are engaged cover the site of Aylward's gate, and during the excavations the men uncovered a portion of an ancient bridge over the river Frome. A large number of old coins has been dug up there, including many specimens of Roman and Flemish coinage.

— A discovery of treasure has just been made at Courbevoie, near Paris. A labourer, while digging the foundation of a wall in the Avenue de St. Denis, near the site of a former convent of Ursulines, found, at a depth of about a foot below the floor of a cellar, two small boxes, one containing 75 gold pieces of 48 livres, bearing the image of Louis XV., and the other 587 silver coins of six livres of the same, and the following reign, the whole forming a value of about 7,000*l.*, to the half of which the finder is entitled.

— It was a stroke of policy on the part of our government to devise in the trade dollar a coin which should compete with the Mexican dollar and eventually drive it almost out of the Chinese market. After reaching that country it encounters an ignominious fate. The Chinese send it to India for the purchase of opium. They go into the Calcutta mint and come out as rupees, which are stamped with the native characters on the one side, and the value of the piece on the other. The trade of China with India in opium exceeds that of all other commodities, as is shown by the reports of the Chinese customs service. The amount returned for the last eight years, exclusive of the amount smuggled, which would probably double it, is 97,440,930 pounds. The amount of American silver which annually goes to India from China to pay for opium is immense.—*San Francisco Call.*

— The ancient Sanscrit manuscripts are well known to be written on palm-leaf, and according to a recent report to

the Indian government by the Baboo antiquarian, Ragendra Lalamitra, now employed in examining into the subject, the oldest known date back nearly to the beginning of the twelfth century. Such records, it is stated, are extremely rare, the majority of the palm-leaf writings not going back beyond the end of the sixteenth century. On the other hand, the paper manuscript of Sanscrit writings are found to be many of them much older than was believed, one copy of the "Bhagavata Pirana" in this material being of the year A. D. 1310. The secret of their existence and preservation is not merely that the natives of India knew how to make good stout paper nearly six hundred years since, but they carefully sized it with yellow arsenic laid over with a vegetable emulsion, and so effectually preserved it. For the report tells us that, "on insect or worm will attack arsenicized paper." And, although it seems that the superior appearance and cheapness of European paper has of late years caused it to be adopted for official and other documents needing preservation, Baboo adds: "This is a great mistake as it is not near so durable, and is liable to be rapidly destroyed by the insects."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

— His Excellency Iwakuri Tomomi, chief of the Japanese Embassy which visited England a few years ago, has just presented to the library of the India Office, in fulfilment of a verbal promise made to the librarian, a set of the Chinese version of the Buddhist Scriptures, called *Tripitaka* in Sanscrit, *Santsang* in Chinese, and *Issaikio* in Japanese. The work is put up in seven large boxes, weighing about three quarters of a ton, and will require a room to itself. The India Library possesses already, besides many other Chinese works on Buddhism, a set of the Tibetan version of the Buddhist Canon in 334 large volumes, presented by Mr. B. H. Hodgson, and a set of the Pali Tipitaka, written on palm leaves in the Burmese character, in fifty boxes, presented by Sir A. Phayre; and thus, with the unique accession

just received from Japan, it offers to the student of Buddhism almost inexhaustible material for original research.

— The first volume of the Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum, by Mr. Stanley Lane Poole, comprising the coinage of the Eastern Khalcefels, is just published. The second volume is already in the press.

— While travelling through India, the Prince of Wales proposes to distribute a large number of souvenirs in the shape of gold and silver medals and gold rings, and several hundreds of each have been ordered for the purpose. The medals are to have a profile of the Prince on one side, and on the other the three plumes, with a record of His Royal Highness' visit.

— On the 30th of June a collection of Coins belonging to a Canadian collector was disposed of. The following prices were realized for a few of the Canadian medals. Medal of the board of Arts, \$2.35, Prince of Wales medal .45, one of the Numismatic Society .75, Shakespere \$2.38, Toronto University small size, \$1.37, large size \$2.12, Board of Arts, \$1.80 These are much below the prices of a year or two ago, when some of these would have realized from five to ten dollars. Hard times effect even coins and medals.

— On page 168 of Vol. I., Mr. Sandham gives some account of a Medal presented to the Indians of New France. Since then a specimen was discovered at Quebec, in the foundation of an old building recently pulled down. It has on the Obverse :—LUDOVICUS MAGNUS REX CHRISTEANISSIMUS. Bust of Lewis XIV., to the right. Reverse :—FELEICITAS DOMUS AUGUSTÆ. Ex :—MDCXCIII. Busts of four Statesmen, a larger with three smaller ones below. Each bust has an inscription underneath. But the copy from which we write this discription has been so much rubbed, that the names cannot be distinctly made out.