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THE FORGOTTEN PAST.

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AMERICAN Archæology has of late assumed a highly important position in scientific research. The time is past when it is possible to exclaim with a writer who had visited this Continent, that : " Nothing is known of Ancient America ; not even a ruin exists there to lead the imagination to things of old."

Now that ruins of cities have been discovered over an extended area, indicating the existence of a community of civilized nations ; the attention of the Savants of Europe is drawn thitherward, and to the importance of such new material in the study of our race in this part of the world.

No theory has yet been definitely adopted, and none is likely to be generally received, in regard to the first people that inhabited America, until much further research has been made. The subject is constantly being further elucidated by the solution of new questions, and it is thus the

more interesting to those who follow its progress through the writings and discoveries, of the learned world, from time to time made public.

Let us examine briefly into the extent of the subject and the theories formed thereon by those devoted to it.

In the beginning saith the Scripture : " The Spirit of God *is* fluttering on the face of the waters." There was no visible land. The solid crust, imprisoning the central fire, had not yet been shaken by that mighty element. Afterwards, when by shocks, rendings, and distortions, this outer covering was marred, table lands and peaks appeared above the universal ocean. America was the first to rise from the depths, notwithstanding the greater pretensions of the " Old " European Continent. Canada in the laurentides shows the most manifest indications of these first upheavals.

Why then has not the soil of America, prepared so early, nursed one of the first branches of the human family ? There is nothing that seems to contradict this. At a later period the immigration movement towards America as far as we know, took place under conditions in no way superior to that of the sons of Adam when they partitioned the world among themselves. It is quite probable that some families early reached America and that they were as prosperous as their brethren remaining in Asia. Both Continents were physically united in the geological past, even now in spite of earthquakes, volcanoes, and the resistless ocean, the chain uniting them can hardly be said to be broken. Can we without believing that this Continent was inhabited at an exceedingly ancient period, explain the many remarkable monuments now found existing over a vast extent of its surface.

The plains of the West, New Mexico, California, and the Isthmus of Panama, are the repositories of these marvels of the unknown past. Cities of vast extent, gigantic erections, works seemingly fabulous, shew traces of a civilization which has left no written history. Yet these are its history ; they

·speak! It matters not that the Indians discovered by Columbus and Cortez were ignorant of their meaning, and could only say that they had always been as ruins, heaps of mutilated columns, and piles of huge architectural palaces defying the ravages of time. Such buildings were constructed by the sons of our first parents. Examine their works in Asia. Why may not those in America be equally early with them, especially when the similarity of style has been proved? There was no unsurmountable object to prevent them early coming here.

Notice also that these ancient builders must have reached this Continent from an Asiatic direction as their works are all on the western slope. Some ruins in Florida and those of Peru are of an entirely different character and evidently belong to a more recent and consequently more advanced civilization.

The idea is no longer tenable that men before the flood were uncivilized and ignorant of the art of construction, such errors are fast fading away. The builders of the Ark, and those who raised the Tower of Babel were as capable of constructing the stupendous monuments of Palcuque and Nicla, (Panama), having the appearance of the same parentage with the ancient land marks of Asia.

In that case it seems as if the migrations of the race around the world had begun from West to East, and not in the course of the sun, or as we generally style the westward flight of Empire.

Possibly this may have been interrupted by the flood, if so the marvels of Palcuque and Nicla were erected previous to that time. Then with these we are in possession of the first human constructions. Of what afterwards happened we have some knowledge. The race had to develop for a second time during long centuries. From the heights of Asia, tribes extended towards and occupied the shores of the Mediterranean, while others pushed eastward to China, and there

established a colossal Empire, having intimate connections with the coasts of America. Thus was re-peopled the world; colonization following two diverse paths, crossed each other in this "New World."

Issuing from the table lands of Central Asia towards the Mediterranean, and from thence across the Atlantic to America. The men of old, as early as three or four thousand years ago, followed this path.

From the days of Plato, 2,300 years ago, who writes of what was then ancient, up to the time of Professor Maury, recently deceased, science has been puzzled with regard to traditions relating to a continent which was supposed to have existed in mid ocean, between Europe, Africa and America. According to reports, traces of it are supposed to be still visible.

After all the shaking, bulging, distorting and eruptions that our poor planet has undergone ever since the flood, almost anything may be believed concerning it.

Peruvian, Mexican and Floridian monuments have more than one point of resemblance to those of Ancient Egypt. Were they built by people from the shores of the Mediterranean? It is more than probable, otherwise how could we reconcile their resemblance, to such a peculiar style of architecture as is displayed on her Temples.

No one doubt the aptitude for navigation displayed by the dwellers by that immense inland sea. They soon found its outlet, and with indomitable energy sailed out into the broad Atlantic. The Ancient Kings, such as David, Solomon and Alexander dispatched their fleet to the extremity of the known world. The hardy Phœnicians, who were familiar with the storms of the Atlantic, may step by step by the islands disseminate through it, have arrived on the coasts of America, or better perhaps, by way of the Continent described by Plato. There is nothing improbable in this. A salubrious climate invited them to remain in such attractive abodes as Mexico,

Florida and Peru. Love of discovery may have attracted them to take up their abode on this side of the Atlantic, with as much force at least as impelled the French under far less inviting conditions to settle in Canada two or three centuries ago.

Again the oceanic currents, which carried Cabral to the shores of Brazil in the year 1500, and which are taken advantage of in our days to shorten the voyage from Europe to America, may have been known to the sailors of the Pharaohs, or other Monarchs, friends of navigation.

A vessel may have been stranded on the new land, a full squadron perhaps, and without the means could never return to their old home. The exact date of the sinking of the *Atlantide*, so named by ancient Authors is unknown, but it is supposed to have taken place about 3,000 years ago. It is not improbable that in consequence, communications between Europe and America suddenly ceased, and that a certain dread prevailed among the sailors of the Mediterranean. What caused the repugnance of the contemporaries of Columbus when the idea of crossing the Atlantic was mooted? A prevailing superstition lead them to fear that they would be engulfed by the waves of the Atlantic, should they sail beyond the sight of land.

In short, America has been peopled by two distinct migrations, one from Asia settling on the Western part of the continent, and the other from Europe, occupying the Eastern coasts, including Mexico. The first is only known by its monuments of stone, but of the second we have many other evidences.

The reader will no doubt be desirous of knowing something of the wild tribes described by the discoverers of this continent, for the Empires of Montezuma and the Incas, differ entirely from the condition of the numerous nations dwelling between Cape Horn and Alaska. They present nothing unusual so far as we are able to judge. The descen-

dants of Adam and Eve, naturally came here after the manner of races and families already mentioned. It is a bad precedent to affirm that the presence of savages in America is unexplainable, so we may let the matter drop. If we look at it in a common sense way, that nothing is more feasible than migrations from Asia to the East, and from Europe to the West. These two sources must each have contributed their share of the wandering tribes of America, as they have the civilized nations of Mexico and Peru.

This contrast between civilized and uncivilized, living side by side, has always been in the world. Savage tribes have frequently been found ranging in the vicinity of Jerusalem, Babylon and Troy; on the borders of art loving Greece; at length conquering the conqueror Rome, aye, and even knocking at the Palace gate of the great Charlemagne. To those acquainted with history such facts will be found constantly recurring.

As many as fifty migrations may have taken place. To speak of authenticated and recent facts it may be remembered that the Northmen of Europe founded numerous establishments in North America, during the 8th and 9th centuries perhaps, for we have nothing to the contrary, long before.

During the long range, between four and five thousand years since the flood, how many, many accidents must have occurred, resulting in the forced migrations and consequent settlement of numerous families on both shores of America. Most likely a number of these isolated Colonies developing, became radically changed. Destitute fishermen uneducated and without the means of continuing their European civilization, may have degenerated into "Indians." It may be remarked that most of the so called Indians, were only barbarous in their dress and their ignorance. These like the Algonquins, the Iroquois and the Sioux, boasted that they never had any connection with timid surrounding tribes, and

this appears to be true. They had an entirely different origin. Suppose an emigration of a whole nation from Asia, on account of a conquest of their territory by some unrecorded invasion, is it probable that the armed emigrant will be changed as soon as he touched American soil. No he remains a warrior, and drives before him the miserable descendants of the long ago shipwrecked European sailors. He will conquer in his turn and live securely armed in a bower of his own choosing.

What about the various languages spoken by the Indians in different parts of America? A simple question, we answer, nothing is so subject to change as language. This matter has been thoroughly studied. How can we explain the formation of idiom differing so much, as for example, in Europe where nations border so closely on each other; and where will we now find any of the languages spoken within its borders two thousand years ago? Some are now using their third idiom, and are likely to change yet once again. What become of the language of ancient Gaul (France)? absorbed by the Latin, and the Latin transformed into "French," not more than five hundred years ago.

Considering the question in this light, is it to be wondered that the unfortunate isolated groups attempting to subsist in the primeval forests of America, with little if any knowledge of their new home, should soon have lost their mother tongue and adopt one more suited to their changed conditions. Unwritten, no language can be preserved.

Taking this for granted, it is no difficult matter to raise a race of savages, so far well, but how are we to account for the occurrence in America of the great nations, blessed with a higher civilization, peculiarly their own? Because they came to America under auspices totally different from the warrior tribes or bands of peaceful wanderers. No doubt the emigrant from the shores of the Mediterranean, brought with him his own knowledge, and higher civilization, most

of this he probably soon lost, nevertheless this capacity of civilization and his desire for superior comfort remained. He retained enough to carve out for himself a new condition, or rather civilization, in which here and there may be traced a dim semblance of the far off old, in the laws, religion, art, and traditions of Mexico and Peru.

DOLLARS AND CENTS.



THE following appeared in an English Magazine in 1864, but it will still retain interest with those who remember our "Silver Nuisance," in Canada, prior to the year 1870, the closing anecdote calls to mind our old fellow citizen, Mr. Rattray, one of our pioneer Numismatists in Montreal.

In intimate connection with the banking system of the United States are all the various and intricate currency regulations of the United States and Canada. I include the currency system of the Canadas in this connection, because, though under separate governments and political institutions, the United States and the British provinces are closely allied in their commercial, monetary, and other business transactions.

At the first glance nothing seems to be more simple and facile of comprehension than the American system of reckoning money in dollars and cents; and, if no other method were in use, nothing could be more simple in reality. With the single exception of the 3 cent piece, a piece of money coined expressly for postal purpose (three cents being the uniform rate of letter postage throughout the United States,) the decimal coinage is carried out in all the purely American coinage, which consists of cents only, in copper or nickel; 5, 10, 25, and 50 cent pieces in silver; and 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dollar pieces in gold. A few years since 3 dollar pieces were coined, and a few 50 dollar octagon-shaped coins were

issued from the California mint ; but these pieces of money were subsequently called in, the 3 dollar piece not being a decimal coin, and the 50 dollar, or £10 piece, being cumbersome and weighty to carry. Throughout the United States dollars and cents, and their decimal parts, are the only coins recognised by the Government, or accepted at the different Government offices ; and all mercantile accounts and monetary transactions to a large amount are reckoned and kept in dollars and cents. But throughout the country a very great inconvenience arises from the practice still maintained by many retail dealers, of calculating their sales and making out their small accounts in the old currency. This practice would be less inconvenient if the currency itself were uniform throughout the several States ; but this is not the case, and even a native-born American, Travelling from one State to another frequently finds himself as ignorant of the currency as any emigrant just landed at New York.

What is the meaning of a currency differing in value from the legitimate money of the State ? some persons may inquire ; for in Great Britain we have no such currency, in the American sense of the term. I will endeavour to explain. In former days, when the United States were colonies of the British empire, the British system of reckoning money in pounds, shillings, and pence was common alike to the colonies and the present British provinces ; but, specie being scarce, as it generally is in new countries, the coins of every nation were readily current at a certain regulated valuation. Spanish and Mexican dollars were, however, the most common coins ; and hence, probably, originated the custom of *reckoning* in dollars, which was adopted in America from its earliest settlement by Europeans, though, as I have observed, accounts were kept in pounds, shillings, and pence.

The scarcity of gold and silver coin, however, enhanced its value, and necessitated the adoption of a colonial currency similar in denomination, but of less intrinsic value than the

British currency, or sterling money. What is now styled the Halifax currency, which is still the currency of the British American provinces, was at one period the prevailing currency of the United States. Thus, the silver Spanish or Mexican dollar was valued (to quote entire figures) at four shillings sterling and at five shillings currency, and the gold pound sterling at five dollars, or twenty-five shillings currency (still to quote entire figures, and cast out fractions).

The British crown, or five-shilling piece, was valued at six shillings and one penny currency; the half-crown at three shillings and one halfpenny; the shilling at fifteenpence; and the sixpence at sevenpence halfpenny—a valuation still maintained in the British American provinces. When, however, the War of Independence broke out between the colonies and the mother country, specie, or coined money, became scarce still. The established currency was disturbed, in consequence of the increased value of gold and silver compared with other commodities; and, to meet the exigencies of the times, a currency was adopted varying in different sections of the country, according to the greater scarcity of coin in some parts than in others. Thus, in New York and other central States, the silver dollar (which was always regarded as the standard) was valued at *eight* shillings currency, and the pound sterling, consequently, at *forty* shillings currency. In the New England States the dollar was valued at *six* shillings currency, and the pound sterling at thirty shillings; while in some of the Southern States coin became so scarce that the dollar was valued at *ten* shillings currency, and the pound sterling at *fifty* shillings.

When, at length, the independence of the United States was acknowledged, and business affairs settled down into order and regularity, it is probable that these awkward divergences from the ancient currency of the colonies would have been rectified, and the former system restored, had not the British monetary system been altogether abolished, and a

decimal currency of dollars and cents substituted in its stead. It is, however, one of the most difficult things imaginable to get a people to adopt a new system of reckoning money and keeping accounts, even though it be easier and simpler than the old one ; and for many years, notwithstanding that dollars and cents were the only denominations of money recognised by the Government, the people continued to reckon, in pounds, shillings, and pence, those of each section, according to their own particular system of currency, and thus the disarranged currency became perpetuated in its disarrangement. For though in course of time the general custom of reckoning in pounds, shillings, and pence wore away, the retail dealers and petty shopkeepers, in the New England States particularly, but more or less in other States, continue to make out their small accounts in pounds, shillings, and pence, to the present day ; the motive no doubt being the advantage they can take of the odd half cent which this system of reckoning entails, in making their change. The difficulty and inconvenience and loss which this practice entails upon travellers may be illustrated as follows :—

We will suppose an Englishman to have just arrived in Canada—though a native American travelling from one State to another will be subjected to a similar loss and inconvenience, since few Americans are conversant with the currency beyond their own native State—but, for the sake of making the subject clear, we will suppose an Englishman to have just arrived in Canada, and to be in ignorance, as nine persons out of ten would be under similar circumstances, of the currency of the country.

His first surprise will probably meet him on landing at Quebec ; for he will be eager to purchase some of the fruit, which the *habitants* are accustomed to carry to the wharves to tempt the appetites of the strangers just off a long sea voyage. He buys a pennyworth of apples, and offers sixpence in payment. To his astonishment he receives sixpence

halfpenny change, in Canadian coppers, and his fruit into the bargain. He thinks there must be some mistake, but the dealer insists that all is right ; and as the purchaser cannot understand the *habitant's* Canadian French *patois*, he goes on his way, thinking that the poor man is determined to cheat himself. He next makes a purchase in a dry-goods store (*Anglice*, linen-draper's shop) to the amount, he is told, of three shillings and ninepence. He of course places three shillings and ninepence upon the counter, but the odd ninepence are returned to him ; and then he learns that three shillings sterling are three and ninepence Halifax or Canadian currency, at five shillings to the silver dollar. He goes to New York, and there makes a similar purchase ; but he is only required to pay forty-seven cents, or about one shilling and elevenpence English, and is informed that there are twelve and a half cents to the "York" shilling, and eight shilling to the dollar, New York currency. The shopkeeper has also made half a cent extra profit on his goods, on account of the impossibility of returning half a cent in change.

Our traveller proceeds from New York to Boston, and in the latter city again makes a purchase to the amount of three shillings and ninepence, and, as he is still on United States territory, he of course thinks he is right in tendering a similar sum to that paid in New York ; but he finds that sixty-two cents are demanded from him, or about two shillings and sixpence English, and he is told that there are sixteen and a half cents to the shilling, or six shillings to the dollar, New England currency. From Boston he proceeds to Charleston, South Carolina, where once again he purchases goods to the value of three shillings and ninepence ; but here he discovers that he is called upon to pay only thirty-eight cents, or about one shilling and sixpence English, since in South Carolina currency there are ten cents to the shilling, and ten shillings to the dollar, though here also the shopkeeper contrives to

gain his half cent additional profit by making out his bill in currency instead of in dollars and cents, in consequence of the impossibility of making even cents out of the odd ninepence currency.

Half a cent is but an infinitesimal fraction over a farthing ; but I am told that many tradesmen make a good thing out of the farthings in change which " genteel " customers contemptuously refuse to trouble themselves with ; and so do the " cute " traders out of the half cents they continue to squeeze out of those customers who are not up to the trick, and who do not insist upon their bills being rendered in legitimate dollars and cents. Up to 1852-3 this currency annoyance was rendered more annoying and perplexing in consequence of the practice that prevailed throughout the States of taking or giving in change, over the counter, Spanish quarter dollars, and pistareens and French francs and half-francs, and German florins and guilders, and English half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, as well as lesser silver coins ; in fact, the current coins of all nations, at a certain specified valuation, which could be found by referring to the " Bank Bill Directories." The specified value of these foreign coins was, however, liable to depreciation, accordingly as the coins were worn or dilapidated ; and the value of worn or dilapidated foreign coins was determined at the will or caprice of any person who chose to consider that they had done duty at their specified value long enough. All that was necessary in such case was to scratch a cross diagonally on the face of the coin, when it immediately diminished in value. For instance, I have taken in change, at the rate of twenty-five cents, a Spanish or Mexican quarter dollar, perhaps worn so smooth that the device upon its face is scarcely distinguishable. I enter a shop, or " store " and make a purchase, and tender in payment, among other change, my smooth Spanish quarter. The shopkeeper happens to be in a bad humor, or from some cause or another he is unusually sharp. He

singles out my smooth quarter, marks a cross upon it, and says,

"That quarter ain't worth no more nor twenty cents."

"But," I reply, "I have just received it for twenty-five cents."

"No matter; 'taint worth only twenty cents *now*. See the cross upon it."

"But you marked the cross."

"Well, it has done dooty long enough. 'Taint worth only twenty cents *now*."

This is all the satisfaction I can get. I may take it back if I choose, or the shopman will receive it with five cents additional, and I may as well pay that sum, for no one will give me more than twenty cents for my defaced coin.

There was one tiny coin, however, which strangely held its own in spite of all defacement. The Spanish *real*, or "six-penny bit," as it was termed, valued at six cents, passed current for that sum long after it was so worn as to be merely a thin, smooth wafer of silver, not worth intrinsically three cents. It was no uncommon occurrence at this period for workmen in silver to take a small piece of silver metal, beat it flat and cut it round, about the size of a small note wafer, and then sally forth to the next public-house and exchange the improvised coin for a six cent drink. At length the evil became so glaring that these dilapidated coins were called in, and a pure American coinage substituted in their place, though foreign coin in good preservation was still current at a certain legalized valuation up to the commencement of the civil war. Since the suspension of specie payment, coin of any description is eagerly sought after, and accepted at a liberal premium, in paper, above its nominal value.

The comparative circulation of gold and paper money in Great Britain and the United States has always been in an inverse ratio; for whereas in England the labourer or mechanic, or most people in the receipt of weekly wages, rare-

ly handle bank-notes, the similar classes in the United States are very rarely paid their wages in gold, or even in silver, beyond a very limited amount. Still there is one State which has always enjoyed the—according to British prejudices—enviable privilege of a genuine specie currency.

The United States Mint and Assay Office are situated in the city of Philadelphia, and though New York has often sought to wrest this advantage from its sister State, and to get the Mint of the United States transferred to its own great commercial metropolis, it has hitherto been unsuccessful, and in Philadelphia the United States Mint still remains, though there are several branches, and a Government Assay Office in Wall Street, New York.

In Philadelphia, and throughout the State of Pennsylvania—for no other reason that I can conceive, except that the coin of the country is issued from that State—one, two, and three dollar bills, so numerous elsewhere, are prohibited. No Pennsylvanian bill must be of lesser denomination than five dollars, or one pound sterling, and the bills of any other State, of less denomination than five dollars, are forbidden to be offered or accepted under a heavy penalty. Of course this is a State law; and though it is evaded—New York State and other bills being freely taken from strangers and travellers at the hotels and large commercial houses—it has the good effect of keeping Pennsylvania tolerably free from the numberless counterfeit bills that are to be met with elsewhere, and which frequently pass current for a long while before they are detected and exposed in the “Bank Directory;” it causes a greater amount of specie to be current in Pennsylvania than in any other State, and it has established the monetary system of the State on a firmer and more satisfactory basis than that of any other section of the country.

The cause of this extensive circulation of paper money in bills or notes of small value, and of the free circulation

of foreign coin, and of the existence of so many banks of issue in every part of the country, requires to be explained to many English readers, who are used to an abundant circulation of gold and silver, and who look upon paper money only as a necessary medium in business transactions of the heavier description; yet it is sufficiently apparent. The United States is a country of boundless resources, sparingly populated in comparison with its vast extent of territory; while, until the discovery of the mineral wealth of California, it was very scantily supplied with silver and gold, when its immense commerce and its enormous business transactions are considered. Its people are naturally fond of speculation; and though they frequently speculate rashly and recklessly, and bring upon themselves periodical monetary crises which involve them in temporary trouble, they are conscious of their resources, and of their abundant recuperative powers. They had not, nor have they had ever since the discovery of the auriferous wealth of California—for that discovery has only served to increase their speculations—a sufficient specie basis for their business transactions with each other and with foreign countries. It was and is necessary to provide specie for the payment of their imports from abroad, over and above the value of their exports, and therefore they are compelled to the issue of a paper currency among themselves, being satisfied of their ultimate solvency, in consequence of every extension of territory, every opening out of new territory, every increase of population by immigration or otherwise, and every new business enterprise adding to their material wealth, and providing for the redemption of their paper currency.

Before I close I will find space to relate an amusing anecdote relating to the Canadian currency, the truth of which I vouch for. Some years since, two Scotch immigrants, just arrived in Montreal, went to the shop of a Mr. Rattray, a noted tobacconist of that city, and also a Scotchman, to re-

plenish their stock of snuff. One of the twain entered the shop, and with true Scotch frugality asked for a bawbee's worth of sneezin'. The snuff was measured out to him, and he offered sixpence in payment, and of course received sevenpence in change.

"Ye've gien me too muckle, mon," said the honest Scotchman displaying his seven pennies in change.

"No ; all right, my man," replied Mr. Rattray.

"But there's seven pennies, see, and I gave ye but a saxpence !"

"All right, I tell you," repeated Mr. Rattary ; and the Scotchman quitted the shop and rejoined his companion, to whom he showed his snuff and his change.

Something in the manner of the two immigrants induced Mr. Rattray to follow them unperceived, as they walked away, and in a few minutes the same man that had made the purchase entered the next tobacconist's shop, and again asked for a bawbee's worth of sneezin', again tendering a sixpence in payment, and again, of course, receiving seven Canadian pennies in change.

"Ye've gien me too muckle. I only gave ye a saxpence," repeated the Scotchman ; and a second time he was assured that all was right, and that a sixpence, English money, passed for sevenpence halfpenny currency.

This time Sandy walked forth from the shop in triumph, saying, as he rejoined his expectant companion, "It's a' richt, Andrew. They've gien me my seven pennies again ; but ay, mon, it's a bra' country this, where a man aye gits ane bawbee's worth o' sneezin' and seven pennies for ane siller saxpence !"

The poor man had yet to learn that, if sixpence sterling was worth sevenpence halfpenny in copper currency, it was but a siller saxpence after all.

THE OLD NEPTUNE INN.

"Shall I not take mine ease in mine Inn."

BY J. M. LEMOINE.



WHEN the brilliant Henry Ward Beecher, pronounced Quebec, an *Old Curiosity Shop*, we are induced to think that amidst its accumulated Antiquarian relics, its Church pictures and madonnas, its famous battle-fields, its historical monuments, massive fortifications and wonderous scenery,—more than one of the quaint French dwellings with their pointed gables, and walls four feet thick, must have caught his observant eye. However striking Ward Beecher's word-painting may be, it would, we opine, have required the mystic pencil of the Author of "*The House with the Seven Gables*," Nathaniel Hawthorne, to becomingly depict all the *arcana* of such a building as the *Chien d'Or*, (the old Post Office,) with its ghastly memories of blood and revenge.

The legendary moss clustering round these hoary piles, is not however always dark and gloomy. Love, war, adventure, occasionally lend them their exciting or their soft glamour. Sometimes the annals of commerce entwine them with a green wreath, a sure talisman against the dust of oblivion. It is one of the latter we purpose here briefly to describe.

At the foot of Mountain Hill, stands our chief Emporium of News, labelled for more than a quarter of a century, *Morning Chronicle Office*. This business stand for many years past, has been owned by Hon. Geo. Okill Stuart, Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty. Its beginnings bring us back to the era of the Bourbon Sovereigns of Canada, to the unregretted time (1758,) when Intendant Bigot's shoddy *entourage*, held high carnival, in famine-stricken Quebec.

In those blighting days, in which Madame de Pompadour reigned in France, and Madame Pean, in Quebec, *rings* and

publicrobbery flourished in Canada ; but among high officials, all were not corrupt. There were some memorable exceptions. One of these exceptions, was the worthy, witty, literary and honest Warden of the Quebec merchants, Jean Tachet "*homme probe et d'esprit*," "*synaic des marchands*," say old Memoirs. Mr. Tachet was not only an upright, wealthy merchant ; he was also gifted with the poetical fire ; he wrote the first French Poem, issued in Canada, "*Tableau de la Mer*."

Jean Tachet was an extensive holder of real estate in and round Quebec ; warehouses (*des whites*) on the Napoleon Wharf ; a country seat on the St. Foye road, subsequently, the property of Surveyor General Samuel Holland,—Holland Farm ; lastly, the well known business stand, where in 1847, Mr. St. Michel, printed James Bell Forsyth's News Sheet, the *Morning Chronicle*.

Commercial ruin overtook the worthy, Lower Town Mag-nate, Monsieur Tachet ; his ships and cargoes, during the war of the conquest, like the rest of poor, deserted Canada, fell in English hands, being captured at sea ; out of the disaster, Jean Tachet saved his honorable name.

We fail to trace for a time, the fortunes of his Mountain Hill Counting House. At the dawn of this century, the pre-mises were used as a famous coffee-house, the Neptune Inn ; a noted place of resort for merchants, masters and owners of ships,* and probably occasionally looked up in 1808-9 by the Press Gang. Singularly enough, sixty years ago, the leading Lower Town Merchants, met in this old tenement of the former *Syndic des Marchands* to establish the first Exchange. Of the resolutions passed at the meeting thereat held in 1816, and presided by a leading Merchant, John William Woolsey, Esq., subsequently President of "*Québec Bank*," we find a

* The Neptune Inn was opened as a House of Public Entertainment for Captains, by William Arrowsmith, on 1st May, 1809. (See *Québec Mercury*, 1st May, 1809.)

notice in the *Quebec Gazette*, of 12th December, 1816.* They decided to establish a Merchants' Exchange, in the lower part of the Neptune Inn. Amongst those present, we recognise familiar names: John Jones, George Symes, James Heath, Robert Melvin, Thomas Edward Brown, &c,

Why was the place called Neptune Inn? For the obvious reason that a large statue of the God of the sea, bearing in one hand a formidable iron trident, stood over the main entrance in a threatening attitude.

This conspicuous land mark, was known to every British ship captain frequenting our port.

But if it meant to the wearied mariner, boundless cheer, the latest London papers, pipes, and soothing rum punch mixed by a comely and cheerful bar-maid; to the unsophisticated Canadian peasant, attracted to the lower-town on market days, it was of evil portent.

With honest *Jean Baptiste*, more deeply read in the *Petit Catechisme*, than in heathen mythology, the dreaded God of the sea and his truculent trident, lost cast; in his simple eyes, they symbolised the Prince of Darkness, "*Le diable et sa fourche*": the terrors of a hereafter.

This did not however prevent it from standing sentry, in the same exalted spot, for close on forty years, until in fact, having fallen to pieces by natural decay, it was removed about the time the *Old Neptune Inn* became the *Morning Chronicle* Office; its *dejecta membra* are now a dead secret.

The origin of the famed statue has defied the most recondite searchers of the past. For the following, we are indebted to the retentive memory of that eminently reputed authority, the "oldest inhabitant."

QUEBEC, 5th December, 1816.

* "At a meeting of the Board of Green Cloth held at the Neptune Inn:

John Wm. Woolsey in the chair.—It was unanimously decided to establish a Merchants' Exchange in the lower part of the Neptune Inn, &c. (Then follow the resolutions.) Subscription to be two guineas per annum.

On motion of John Jones, Esq., Resolved that the following Gentlemen do form a Committee of Management:—Thomas Edward Brown, James Heath, George Symes, John W. Woolsey and Robert Melvin."

The statue of Neptune says the octogenarian, Robert Urquhart, so well remembered at the foot of Mountain Hill, was presented to the landlord of the hotel George Cossar, formerly, butler to Hon. Mathew Bell, who then owned the St. Lawrence Chambers. It had been the figure head of the *Neptune*, a large King's ship stranded in 1817, on Anticosti. The wreck had been bought by John Goudie, of St. Rock Suburb, then a leading ship builder, and having to break her up, the figure-head was brought to Quebec, and presented as above stated.

SPENCER GRANGE, *Christmas Eve*, 1876.

NEWSPAPERS AND PRINTERS IN THE BRITISH COLONIES ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

BY JNO. HORN.



IN Vol. 4, No. 2, of the *Antiquarian*, appears an interesting article on the "Early Press in Canada." The following in connection may not prove uninteresting to your many readers:

NOVA SCOTIA.

In 1751, printing was introduced into this Province, but at that time there seems to have been but little encouragement for the press. The first Press was established at Halifax, and there was not a second in the province until 1766.

Bartholomew Green, Jr., was the Grandson of Samuel Green of Cambridge, Mass., and was of the firm of Green, Bushnell & Allen, of Boston. He removed to Halifax, with a press and types, in August 1751. He died about six weeks after his arrival, 52 years of age.

John Bushnell, who had been the partner of Green in Boston, immediately succeeded him in Halifax. He printed for the Government, and in the first week of January, 1752, published the first Newspaper printed in Nova Scotia. The work for Government was inconsiderable, but was the chief

support of Bushnell. He was a good workman, but had not the art of acquiring property, nor did he make the most economical use of the little which fell into his hands. Bushnell died in February, 1761. He left a son and daughter.

Anthony Henry succeeded Bushnell as a printer at Halifax, he was a German, and had lived sometime with a printer, but had left his master, and became a fifer in one of the British Regiments; with this Regiment he came to Nova Scotia, but sometime after obtained his discharge. There was then no printer in the Province, and his pretensions to skill in this art greatly facilitated his release from the army. Henry began business with the press and types which had been used by Bushnell. He published the *Gazette*; the Government through necessity gave him some work, which was badly executed.

In 1766, a printer with a new and good apparatus, came from London, and opened another printing house. He published a newspaper, and was employed by Government. Henry who had been inattentive to his affairs did not dispond at the prospects of a rival, but much to his credit exerted himself, and did better than before. After a few years trial, his rival, not finding the business so profitable, nor placeagreeable returned to England, and Henry was again the only printer in the province, he procured new types and a workman better skilled than himself. His printing from this time was executed in a more workmanlike manner. He remained without another rival until the British Army evacuated Boston in March, 1776, when the printers in that Town, who adhered to the Royal cause, were obliged to leave that place, and they with other refugees came to Halifax. Henry continued printing until his death. He possessed a fund of good nature, and was of a very cheerful disposition. He died December, 1800, aged 66 years.

Robert Fletcher arrived at Halifax from London in 1760, with new printing materials, and a valuable collection of

Books and Stationery. He opened a Bookstore and Printing House near the parade, published a newspaper, and printed for the Government. Until this time there had been no bookstore in the province. Fletcher executed his printing with neatness and raised the reputation of the art in Nova Scotia. He remained in Halifax until 1770, then sent his printing materials to Boston for sale, and returned himself to England.

Alexander and James Robertson, who had been printers in New York, Norwich and Albany, went to Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1783, where they printed a newspaper.

John Howe, began printing in Halifax in 1776, and still continued his press in that place, and was publisher of the *Gazette* in 1812.

After the peace in 1784, printing found its way into the Province of New Brunswick.

The art was introduced into Lower Canada, soon after the conquest by the British. There was however but one press established here before 1775.

At Quebec soon after the organization of the Government of the Province by the British, a printing house was established in that City, by William Brown and Thomas Gilmore, under the firm of Brown and Gilmore, who, a Canadian authority, mentions as coming from Philadelphia, and an American writer says: "They are supposed to be the first who introduced the art into Canada. They printed both in English and French, and their work was executed in a very handsome manner. Both were Englishmen, and had served regular apprenticeships in London. Their partnership continued till 1774. They were printers of the first paper published in Canada, the *Quebec Gazette*. The first number was printed on 21st June, 1764, partly in French and partly in English, this paper is still in existence. From that time Brown the senior partner, carried on the business for himself. Brown was bachelor, he died in Quebec, and left his property

and business to his nephew, Samuel Neilson. There were two or more presses in the Town in 1812.

A press was established in Montreal in 1775, by Charles Berger and Henry Mesplet, Co-partners, under the firm of Berger & Mesplet. After this partnership was dissolved, Mesplet continued the business; he was imprisoned for printing something against the Government. After his liberation he continued to print in this place until he died. Mesplet came from Philadelphia to Montreal with the American Commissioners, Agents of the American Continental Congress in 1775, to establish a printing house and publish a newspaper, as a means to interest the people in the cause of American Liberty.

The first newspaper published in Montreal, was the *Montreal Gazette*, it was first printed in 1778.

The *Montreal Herald* commenced 1811, by William Grey as printer and proprietor.

The first paper published in Upper Canada, was the *Upper Canada Gazette*, issued in April 1793.

SALE OF THE MENZIES LIBRARY.



ON 18th November, was concluded in New York, the sale by auction of one of the most valuable,—probably the most valuable collections that has ever been offered in the United States. It contained some of the rarest volumes extant. The sum realized was a trifle over \$50,000, a large sum of money for a private collection of Books. The collection of this Library by Mr. Menzies, has been the work of his life, and with impaired health he thought it best to dispose of his books, which, by his personal attention, could be done to better advantage, than if left for his heirs to attend to. The books, as a whole, were in the finest possible condition.

There were present at the sale representatives of great libraries from Boston, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and other places. But the most conspicuous among the buyers were private collectors, many of whom, being gentlemen of fortune, bore off the richest gems of the collection, for a public institution cannot afford to spend two or three hundred dollars for a rare pamphlet, or \$900 for an Indian Bible that no one can read.

The catalogue made 469 pages, and will be preserved by collectors as a useful book of reference, as well as a record of one of the choicest libraries ever sold in the United States.

The following are a few of the more valuable lots, with the prices they brought :—

“Cicero’s Discourse of Old Age.”—This (magnificent, perhaps, the finest in existence,) specimen of Benjamin Franklin’s Printing, (1774.) was “clean, fresh and crisp as it came from the press.” Only three other uncut copies are known to be in existence, \$168.

Clarke’s “Ill News from New England,” the 1652 edition, uncut and in fine condition, \$105.

Clarke’s “Impartial and Authentic Narrative of the Battle of Bunker’s Hill.” 1775 edition, \$34.

Quite a sensation was created over a unique copy of “Colden’s History of the five Indian Nations,” printed by Bradford, New York, in 1727. It was started with a \$20 bid, and the competition went on briskly until it finished at \$210.

Columbus “De Insulis nuper Inuentis,” &c. (Basle, 1494), after some very keen bidding, was finally knocked down for \$100.

The “Confession of Faith,” (Boston, 1680), brought \$38.

And the first book printed in Connecticut, also a “Confession of Faith,” (New London, 1710), went for \$60.

Denton’s, “A brief discourse of New York,” (London,

1670), the first book of the kind in the English language, \$220.

The great book of the collection : "Eliot's Indian Bible," which is in fine condition and splendidly bound, was secured by Mr. Cook of Providence, amid applause for \$900.

The event of the whole sale, however, was the disposal of Washington's Correspondence with General Joseph Reed, of Pennsylvania, during the Revolution. It comprised 54 original autograph letters, all in Washington's own handwriting, except 7, which were written by his Secretaries. They are mostly written on foolscap paper, and made upwards of 200 pages of an imperial 4to Volume. The bidding commenced at \$500, and mounted to \$2,250, at which figures they were awarded to Mr. Cook, who was one of the largest purchasers at the sale.

The total amount is the largest ever realized at a book sale in New York.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of "The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal."



IRS,—On looking at a back number of *The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, I happened to see that the late Sir George Duncan Gibb, a member of many learned Societies, both in England, America and Canada, was a well known contributor to your Journal ; it occurred to me, that although some months had elapsed since his death, it would not be uninteresting to your readers to know something as to the dispersion of his collection of Coins.

The collection consisted of nine cabinets, containing as the Auctioneers catalogue stated "5000 rare old Coins," and were sold together with the whole of his household furniture, library, pictures, &c., under the hammer, on the 13th of April, 1876, by a firm of auctioneers of the highest

respectability, yet totally unused to the sale of Coins, with the result that the whole collection did not realise one hundred pounds, and I have no hesitation in saying that had they been catalogued by a numismatist and sold by Messrs. Christie or Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, the celebrated auctioneers of literary property and works illustrative of the fine arts, the result would have been very different; however it was otherwise, and the Coins originally catalogued in 45 lots, were, with the consent of the buyers, altered in the room at the time of sale, to eleven lots, in consequence of, as the auctioneer stated, the catalogue being extremely heavy, and time pressing; by this arrangement each cabinet and its contents was sold as it stood, the two extra lots, being, a japanned tin cash box containing 150 Nuremberg Counters which brought £1. 1s., (perhaps the only lot that fetched its full value,) and 2 Medals—a Canadian Medal of 1786, and a large sized oval silver medallion of George Washington, dated 1793, which brought £1. 17s., a cabinet containing 511 Roman bronze Coins, amongst which were many beautiful specimens, being knocked down for £11. 10s. The collection of American Coins was small, numbering only 197, mostly South American, and were sold for £4. 1s., and this was considered to be nearly its full value, so that there were but few scarce Coins amongst them, as I need hardly state that American Coins in London, always bring their full value, as evidenced by the prices paid at a sale at Sothebys on the 6th of May last, where a Washington Cent of 1792, (Obv. : naked bust, with laureated head to right. Rev. : Eagle with expanded wings, holding an olive branch and a bunch of arrows, with three stars on each side of Head,) brought £10. 5s., and another of the same date, but not quite so well preserved, brought £8. 5s.

The collection under notice consisted principally of Roman Coins, there being about 1500 bronze of all sizes, and about 250 Roman Silver, the remainder being composed of those

I have previously mentioned, and a few Greek, Bactrian and East Indian, and a miscellaneous assortment of almost every European nation, together with a few fine Medals of celebrated men. In conclusion, I must add, that although I have pointed out that the prices realized were extremely low, yet I cannot help remarking, that for so eminent a man, and so enthusiastic a numismatist, the collection was singularly poor.

C. W. STAINFIELD.

London, England, *September 15th, 1876.*

SANSOM'S TRAVELS IN CANADA.

IN the number for July last, your esteemed correspondent, Mr. Horn, called attention to some inaccuracies in the above work, and I now venture to notice the gross ignorance of his subject which Mr. Sansom exhibits in his narrative, indeed his prejudices are so apparent, that one might almost charge him with wilful misrepresentation, notwithstanding his motto on page 36:—

“Truths which lay hid in darkest night,
My pen shall bring again to light.”

I am afraid that his bias in favor of the “pellucid name of Washington,” warps his judgment of everything Canadian; the frontispice to Mr. Sansom's Volume, “Quebec, drawn from memory,” is without doubt the most extraordinary birds eye view of that city ever published, and his “recollections” of Ticonderoga and Isle-aux-Noix, surely never occurred to any other traveller.

After referring to the fate of Howe in 1759 and Burgoyne in 1777, he speaks of “Anterior scenes of massacre and horror which rendered the sonorius name of Ticonderoga, terrific to our peaceful ancestors, after passing the ruins gray of this dilapidated fortress, (the French called it elegantly

'Carillon,' from the hub-bub usually kept up there in time of war,) and these of 'Crown Point,' (called by them 'Fort la Chevelure,' or the scalping place, a barbarous denomination which the English melted down into 'Crown Point,' still indicative of the same savage practice.) I awoke in the night under these solemn recollections, and the morning star was shining in with perceptible reflection, at the little window of my birth." (*sic in orig.*)

After a pæan in honor of travel, especially into "Foreign Countries," our friend draws on his recollection for the following panegyric :—"When the moon rises to illuminate his [the traveller's] path, as the sun sets in the West, which it does with such evident co-operation, whenever the moon is at full ; he can hardly fail to be touched with admiration and gratitude, at the splendid provision of which he stands so much in need."

"Having passed Burlington, the Capital of Vermont, in the night, next morning after breakfast, we were called up to see the British Flag flying at Illinois, ('*Isle aux Noix*,' as the French call it,) and His Majesty's Crown over the gateway."

After a word of sympathy "for the British Officer and the fair Companion of his voluntary exile," and pity or contempt for "three young marines, in Scotch bonnets, who failed to catch a rope, which *our* Captain threw to them," our author observes :—"Enough,—perhaps too much of *Illinois*."

Canadian readers need not be told that *Isle aux Noix* is the correct name, and not "Illinois," as our author calls it.

But I must close, lest any one should say :—"Enough,—perhaps too much of Mr. Sansom."

SILVER MEDAL PRESENTED TO COL. JOHN
EAGER HOWARD.

BY the kindness of Mr. E. Cogan of Brooklyn, we give the following copy of a letter from J. Howard McHenry of Baltimore, with reference to a Silver Medal presented to his grandfather, Col. Howard, the hero of the Battle of Cowpens:—

“I take the liberty of troubling you with regard to the history of a Silver Medal that is in my possession, of the two faces of which I send you impressions taken for me by an engraver,—it has a loop by which it may be suspended, and through the loop is passed a piece of blue ribbon, edged with white, known as the Cincinnati ribbon.

The following reference to, and description of it is taken from Nile's Register for October 16th, 1824, being an extract from an account of a dinner given by the Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland to Lafayette:—

“From the point where the swords crossed each other were suspended two precious revolutionary relics, the high rewards also of a grateful country to one of her best and bravest sons.” They were two Silver Medals which the Congress had presented to Colonel John Eager Howard; upon the first was:—(here follows a description of the Cowpens Medal, well known to collectors).

The other has the device of an officer pointing with his sword to a retreating enemy, and beckoning to his men to advance; whilst hovering in the air is the figure of Justice with her scales. The motto is “*Virtute et justitia Valet.*” On the Reverse is the figure of an Officer treading upon the British Lion and Flag,—with one hand piercing him with a spear, and with the other holding the end of a chain passing around the body of the animal. The motto around the device is “*Vincalis suis Vincit.*”

My mother, a daughter of Col. Howard, died in 1821. Mrs. Read, (my mother's sister,) now the only surviving

child of Col. Howard, remembers distinctly the dinner given by the Cincinnati Society to Lafayette,—she took her two nephews (the grandchildren, above mentioned of Colonel Howard,) to the dinner, and that whilst she remained in a private room, the two boys were called into the dining room, towards the close of the entertainment, and that Colonel Howard presented to each of them, (my cousin and myself,) one of his revolutionary medals, whilst the Society by acclamation, admitted them to the privilege of honorary membership.

I was but 4 years old in 1824, and therefore I have no personal recollection of the circumstances, but this account establishes very clearly how the medal came into my possession.

I am now unable to ascertain the name of the action in commemoration of which the medal was given, there is no personal inscription on it; it is an *intaglio*, and there probably exists no model, die, or duplicate of it, all the histories and biographies that I have access to, mentions but one award by Congress of a Medal to Colonel Howard, (*viz.*: for conduct at the Battle of Cowpens,) and this is very different from the one I am now seeking information about. Mrs. Read, the Colonel's sole surviving child, knows nothing concerning it, beyond what is contained in the above statement."

[We shall be glad if this notice should be the means of eliciting any information with reference to this interesting Medal.—EDS.]

THE ASSYRIAN TREASURES.



THE number of contract tablets already recognized among the new treasures received by the late Mr. George Smith, is about 3,000. Of these no fewer than 1,800 were found together, and must have formed part of the archives of a single great firm of

Babylonian bankers, whose transactions extended over more than a century, since the dates of their vouchers and securities range through the reigns of Nabopolassar, Nubuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, &c., down to those of Cyrus, Darius, Hyastaspis, and Nidintabel, who revolted against him. Of more strictly, so-called, historical tablets, about a score have already turned up. Besides there are several bricks bearing the legends of very early Babylonian kings. For the lovers of art may be mentioned, besides several vases of some merit, fragments of a seated figure in black basalt, and a couple of bronze statues of hitherto unidentified gods. The same class will be delighted with the fine lion couchant in gray granite, a foot and a half long, and standing on a pedestal of the same material about four inches in height. It was found in Bagdad, and was purchased by Mr. George Smith for the British Museum, during his last expedition but one; but owing to causes which need not be specified, has only reached Great Russel Street.

When it is added that this Bagdad lion bears on his breast the royal ring and hieroglyphical name of one of the Shepherd Kings, who ruled Egypt during 511 years, it will at once be seen that this monument is quite as likely to interest the historical and chronological student, as the enthusiasts for ancient art. The name of the Pharaoh in question, who must have been master of both the Euphrates and the Nile, and whose reign thus seems to furnish the desiderated very early synochronism between the Assyrian and Egyptian annals, is (in its classical form) Sethos. The hieroglyphical escutcheon is that of the Pharaoh, from whose accession the famous stela of San ar Tanis in Egypt dates an era just 400 years from which had run down to Ramses II., the Sesostris of the Greeks. In the list of Assyrian Kings in Syncellus, a Sethos actually appears with a reign of half a century, which is made to begin in that historian's year of the world 3637, or B. C. 1857; and in his Egyptian lists a

Pharaoh of the same name, with 50 years of reign, which began accordingly to Syncellus in the same year, A.M. 3636, is also to be found. Mr. George Smith was the first to find the cuneiform name of the same king on a ring in the British Museum. Another unique find in the new collection is a complete Babylonian calendar, noting all the lucky and unlucky days of the year. It remains only to add at present that Mrs. Consul Skene lately arrived in London from Aleppo, with Mr. Smith's papers.

REJECTED MANUSCRIPTS.

REJECTED Addresses," by Horace and James Smith, was offered to Mr. Murray for twenty pounds, but refused. A publisher, however, purchased it, and, after sixteen editions, Mr. Murray gave £131 for the right to issue a new edition. The total amount received by the authors was more than £1,000. "Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Brontë, was, it is said, rejected by several publishers. This, however, is rather doubtful. We believe the manuscript was sent to Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., in Cornhill, and there it remained for a long time, till a daughter of one of the publishers read it and recommended her father to publish it. The result is well known. It brought the author fame and money. "Eöthen," by Mr. Kinglake, was offered to twenty different houses. All refused it. He then in a fit of desperation, gave the manuscript to an obscure bookseller and found the expenses of publication himself. This also proved a success. "Vanity Fair," that very clever work of Thackeray's, was written for *Colburn's Magazine*; but it was refused by the publishers, as having no interest! "The History of Ferdinand and Isabella," by Mr. Prescott, was rejected by two of the first publishers in London, and it ultimately appeared under the auspices of

Mr. Bently, who stated that it had more success than any book he had ever published. The author of "The Diary of a late Physician" for a long time sought a publisher, and unsuccessfully. At last he gave the manuscript to *Blackwood's Magazine*, where it first appeared and was very successful. The first volume of Hans Andersen's "Fairy Tales," was rejected by every publisher in Copenhagen. Andersen had then neither name nor popularity, and published this exquisite book at his own expense, a proceeding which soon brought him into notoriety. Miss Jane Austen's novels, models of writing at this day, at first met with no success. One of them, "Northanger Abbey," was purchased by a publisher in Bath for ten pounds, who after paying this sum, was afraid to risk any further money in its publication, and it remained many years in his possession before he ventured upon the speculation, which, to his surprise, turned out very profitable. When the poet Gray's "Ode on Eton College" appeared, but little notice was taken of it. The poet Shelley had always to pay for the publication of his poems. The "Ode on the Death of Sir John Moore at Corunna" was written by Rev. Charles Wolfe. "It was rejected so scornfully by a leading periodical that the author gave it to an obscure Irish paper."

MONTREAL IN 1806.



SOME of the names and firms doing business then :

Frederick Wm. Ermatinger, Assignee, later Sheriff, and father of the late Colonel William

Ermatinger.

Cuvillier, Aylwin & Harkness, principal Auctioneers and Brokers.

James & Andrew McGill & Co., Commission Merchants, Thomas Blackwood, was a member of the firm. Andrew

McGill died in April, 1806. James McGill was founder of McGill College, and died in 1813.

Bellows, Forbes & Gates, Leather, Skins, etc., fronting the market place, (opposite the present Montreal House.)

John Donegani, 5 Capital Street, Teas, Wrapping Paper, etc.

J. Reid, Prothonotary and Clerk of the Peace.

Phoenix Assurance Company of London, Alexander Auldjo, Agent.

Edward Wm. Gray, Sheriff, and a large owner of Mount Royal, whose son William was a printer, and founder of the Montreal Herald.

J. M. Cadieux, Notary, after whom one of our streets is called.

Ed. Edwards, Published the Montreal *Gazette*, Weekly at 15s. per annum, at 29 St. Paul Street.

Charles Arnoldi, Clocks, etc.

Henderson, Armour & Co., Spirits, Salt, Teas, etc.

Daniel Arnoldi, Surgeon, 4 St. Gabriel Street, later 21 St. Francois Xavier Street.

Louis Chaboillez, Auctioneer, etc., after whom one of our Squares has been named.

Lewis, Lyman & Co., Druggists, etc., fronting the Market place, succeeded Wadsworth & Lyman in 1802, which business is now carried on by Lymans, Clare & Co.

Jonathan Hagar, had just received from Boston, Boots, Shoes, Camel Haired Shawls, etc.

N. Graham, 7 St. Francois Xavier Street, and 1 Hospital Street, had opened his fall supplies of general goods, secured from New York and Philadelphia.

Austin Cuvillier, Auctioneer and Broker.

Henry Corse, Paints, Oils, etc., 73 St. Paul Street.

Hoyle, Henderson & Gibb, 119 St. Paul Street, Dry Goods, Hardware, Cutlery, etc.

Northrup & DeWitt, Hats, Caps, etc., brother of the late Jacob DeWitt.

Louis Guy, Notary, after whom Guy Street is called.
Kay & Smith, General Merchants.

J. H.

THE HON. AUSTIN CUVILLIER.



IN our last we gave some account of the Currency issued by Cuvillier & Sons; we now, following out our intention, give a short sketch of the Hon. A. Cuvillier, the founder of that firm.

A financier of the first order, he early entered business on his own account, and in a short time was at the head of one of the most extensive Commission Houses in Montreal. Having by his shrewed business tact, amassed for himself considerable wealth, he, a true patriot, offered his services to his country, and was accordingly, in 1815, elected as representative for the County of Huntingdon. Representing that constituency uninterruptedly until 1834, during these nineteen years he served his country faithfully. On account of his eminent financial abilities, he became one of the leading members on every committee relating to finance.

During that time of political turmoil and unrest, arising out of the developement of our constitution, he was always found advocating the rights of the people, while in 1828, he was delegated along with two others to lay before the Imperial Parliament, a numerously signed petition, from the people of Lower Canada, complaining of a privation of their rights. His answers were so able and to the point, that he was highly commended, and secured a favorable answer, promising that the abuses complained of should be righted.

In 1834 he lost his seat, but was on the union of the Provinces in 1841, returned for his old constituency. On the assembling of Parliament he was elected speaker, in which position he displayed his usual ability, until the dissolution of parliament, when he retired from political life. Four years afterwards (1849,) he died in Montreal. Often his

foresight enabled him to take advantage of the financial difficulties arising out of the unsettled political condition of the country, and thus added considerably to his already abundant means. One of these previously mentioned, was the issuing of the abundant fractional currency, during the financial stringency of 1837.

An item forgotten in the last article, may be worthy of note, as it may also have added to the dearth of change. When the rebellion was on the point of breaking out, all the specic held by the banks was secretly shipped to Quebec for safety, as rumours of raids on the banks had for some time been prevalent. There we might say was the entire metallic change of the country, hoarded until the threatened danger was past,

INDIAN TRADE AT MONTREAL IN 1689.

DIFFERENCE OF PRICES IN THE INDIAN TRADE AT MONTREAL, AND ORANGE, (ALBANY,) N.Y., IN 1689.

THE INDIAN PAYS FOR	AT ALBANY.	AT MONTREAL.
8 pounds of Powder,	1 Beaver,	4 Beavers.
A Gun,	2 "	5 "
40 pounds of Lead	1 "	3 "
A Blanket of red cloth	1 "	2 "
A white Blanket	1 "	2 "
Four Shirts	1 "	2 "
Six pairs of Stockings	1 "	2 "

The English have no black or Brazilian Tobacco, they sell that of Virginia at discretion to the Indians.

The other small wares which the French truck with the Indians, are supplied them by the English, in the market.

The English give six quarts (pots,) of *eau de vie* for one Beaver. It is rum or spirits, or in other words liquor distilled from the sugar cane, imported from the West Indies.

The French have no fixed rate in trading brandy, some give more, some give less, but they never give as much as a quart, for a beaver. It depends on places and circumstances and on the honesty of the French trader.

REMARK :—The English do not discriminate in the quality of the Beaver, they take all at the same rate which is more than 50 per cent higher than the French, there being besides more than 100 per cent difference in the price of their trade and ours.

J. H.



THE CENTENNIAL AWARD MEDALS.



THE Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia being now closed, we present our readers with an engraving of the medal awarded to exhibitors. A special medal has been prepared for Canadian exhibitors, an engraving of which will appear in our next number. As the *American Journal of Numismatics* has just come to hand with a very good description of the medal, we take the liberty of inserting it in our pages.

Engravings of the Medals awarded to exhibitors at Philadelphia have appeared, and the dies have been prepared by

Mitchell, of Boston. The Medals are to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint. They are of bronze, four inches in diameter, which is said to be the largest work of the kind ever made in this country. The design accepted has for the obverse, a female figure, seated, facing observer's left, crowned with laurel, holding in her extended right hand a wreath of laurel; her left rests upon an oval shield, having on it a *fac simile* of the seal of the United States. Behind her is a factory; before her are emblems of art and manufactures—a pallet, bust, vase, anvil, square, gavel, and part of a cog wheel. In exergue, in small letters, "Henry Mitchell. des. & sc. Boston, U. S. A." This central design is surrounded by a circle of thirty-eight six-pointed stars, divided into four equal parts by raised elliptical tablets, with seated female figures, personifying the four continents: at the top is America, turned to the right, holding the shield of the United States, an eagle is soaring in the sky; on the left, Europe, to the left, resting upon her right hand, behind her a gavel, in the background a Grecian temple; on the right, Africa, to the right, a couching lion behind her, and palm trees and pyramids in the background; at the bottom, Asia, turning towards the observer, with oriental temples and pagodas in the back-ground. A border of a character similar to that known in architecture as *echinus*, around the edge. Reverse, Within a wreath of laurel, tied at the bottom and open at the top, "Awarded by United States Centennial Commission," in four lines, the first and the last curving. The wreath sends out a spray on each side, which divides into two semicircles the legend, "International Exhibition Philadelphia, MDCCCLXXVI." Border as obverse.

— The Queen has granted medals to every person serving on the steamers "Alert," "Discovery," and "Pandora," during the Arctic expedition.

THE NEW CENT OF 1876.



AFTER an interval of seventeen years a new copper or bronze coinage has been issued in Canada. Another Cent has appeared, yet under an old dress, so much does the Cent of 1876, resemble that of 1859. But still it has its differences, metal has considerably depreciated in value, and now we have one third more in thickness and weight in our present coin, while the figure of our Queen is older, having naturally so to speak, advanced in age with the lapse of years. The head too is coronated, and has a different arrangement of the hair. On the reverse the impression is bolder, and we notice besides the altered date, the letter H, the mark of our Canadian mint and moneyers, Heaton & Sons of Birmingham.

It may seem strange that we have been so long without such numismatic novelties seeing that Canadian silver Coins have been freely issued for the past six years. But now even is copper with us a real desideratum? Canada has not during the present generation at least, been at a loss for necessary copper change. The difficulty has often been the other way. Too much such change. Her liberal financial policy in accepting as such, everything that even resembled a copper coin, precluded any dearth in that article. For coins of all nations, and *mints* were available as change. Even in 1869, when the half of this Cosmopolitan Currency was withdrawn from circulation, there remained of the uncondemned Bank issues ample for the wants of the country.

We well remember the time when the first issue of cents was offered at twenty per cent. discount. The Bank of Upper Canada was then the government agent, and found it difficult indeed to get them into circulation. When the Bank failed, the amount still on hand, some twenty thousand dollars worth, was disposed of at from twenty-five to fifty per cent discount.

Notwithstanding even now, from the abundance of the old Bank tokens, there is no difficulty in getting the present issue into circulation, for no sacrifice is required.

Let us hope that this issue is only the harbinger of a series as long and uninterrupted, if not as glorious, as that of the mother land.

R. W. McL.

PROTESTANT SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS MEDALS.



THE late William Murray, Esq., of Montreal, having bequeathed, "The sum of five hundred dollars to the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal, to be by them invested and the interest thereof applied annually to procuring one or more Medals or other prizes, to be awarded for proficiency of scholarship to pupils of the High School Montreal;" the Board, has lost no time, in complying with the bequest, as we have been shown a copy of the Medal, executed by the Wyons of London, with their usual good taste, it being alike commendable for its size, applicable design and fine workmanship. Obverse:—Two connecting oval shields, the one to the left, having the arms of City of Montreal, the other the arms of Province of Quebec, encircled by an elaborate scroll work. Inscription:—"Protestant Board of School Commissioners for City of Montreal." Reverse:—"For General Proficiency in School Studies," in six lines within a wreath of laurel, encircled by "High School of Montreal, Wm. Murray, Prize. Founded 1874." Size 34.

The School Commissioners availed themselves of the same opportunity to issue one, on their own behalf, of a similar design and character, to be awarded to the High School for Girls. Obverse:—Identical with the above. Reverse:—"For General Proficiency in School Studies," in six lines, within a wreath of laurel, encircled by "High School for Girls, Montreal. Founded 1875." Size 34.

MEETINGS OF THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.



GENERAL Meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, was held on Wednesday evening, the 22nd November, at its rooms, Daniel Rose, Esq., President, in the chair.

A number of books, pamphlets and catalogues were laid on the table, among them several of great interest and use, kindly given by the "Massachusetts Historical Society," Abbot Lawrence, Esq., and S. A. Green, Esq., M. D., of Boston, for which the Society returns its thanks and appreciation of the gifts. To the latter gentleman, a long and devoted friend, the Society is under many deep obligations for past and continued favors.

On motion, Mr. John Horn, (Mansfield Street), was elected an ordinary member.

Mr. Gerald E. Hart exhibited a series of four Indian Chief Medals, an Agricultural Society Medal, a Directory of Montreal in 1819 (the first Directory of the City, and the only known copy), and a plan of the Siege of Quebec in 1759.

The Indian Chief series consists of :

I. Obv.—"Ludovicus XV. Rex Christianissimus." Bust laureated. Rev.—Honor and Courage (emblematic) standing upright, facing each other, each holding at arms length a Lance, the other hands grasped. Legend—"Honor et Virtus." Size 36, thick planchet.

This medal is the only known specimen, and is supposed to be one of those mentioned in P. Kalm's travels in Canada, 1749, in which he states "that the Indian Chiefs, at their reception of the new Governor, wore around their necks strings of wampum, to which was suspended a large Silver Medal bearing the King's effigy." In the catalogue of the Musée Monétaire, this Medal is not mentioned, but, under heading of "Peace of Utrecht," No. 469 has a similar Re-

verse with Head of Louis XIV. on the obverse. Likewise No. 192 under Louis XVI., has the same Reverse. The inference may be that these were not of an authorized design, but a few may have been hastily prepared with a mule design, the more so as the size corresponds with No. 469. The Medal has been a reward for services which terminated in the Peace of "Aix la Chapelle," corresponding in time with Kalm's travels, and thus is not mentioned by the observant Charlevoix.

II. Obv.—George III. and Queen Charlotte, busts facing, court dress, no legend. Overhead,—Drapery, divided by two tassels. Rev.—Royal Arms, as on No. 59,—Sandham—size 24.

This Medal, hitherto unknown, is attributed as an Indian Chief series, by its similarity in reverse to the above No. 59. Its smallness in size may account for its scarcity, as doubtless the Chiefs did not appreciate so trivial a gift, causing the authorities to withdraw and replace it by the following larger Medals :

PEACE OF PARIS 1763 MEDALS :

III. Obv.—Bust of George III. in Armour, "Georgius III. Dei Gratia." Rev.—Royal Arms,—Sandham—No. 59, size 48.

IV. Ditto. Sandham—No. 61, size 38.

The Agricultural Society Medal is also the first shown to this Society. Obv.—Two horses, tandem, drawing a plough in a farm. A man leads the first horse, whilst another guides the plough. Back ground consists of a fence and a range of mountains, below a horn of plenty, with a rake and other garden implements grouped; the word "Montreal" is engraved. Legend, "Agricultural Society, Lower Canada." Rev.—An engraved inscription: "To Moses Hayes, Esq., first prize for a Bull at District Cattle Show, September, 1832."

The Secretary mentioned that he had received a sword for

examination by the Society, which had recently been dug up on a farm at Orillia, Ontario, measuring 35½ inches long, width at hilt one inch, tapering to a point. In the groove are the words, *M. C. fecit*, on one side, and *in Valencia* on the other. The sword will be submitted at the next meeting. It is of a make, seemingly belonging to the early part of the 16th century.

The Annual Meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society was held at the Residence of the Secretary, on Wednesday Evening, the 13th December, 1876. Among those present, were Messrs. D. Rose, H. Mott, R. W. McLachlan, Major L. A. H. Latour, George Cushing, James Ferrier, John Horn, James Esplin, and Gerald E. Hart. Visitors, Messrs Tolley and J. L. MacPherson. The President, Mr. D. Rose, in the Chair. The following gifts were handed in: Major Latour, a copy of his Annual Work, "L'Annuaire de Ville Marie." Mr. McLachlan, Medal in bronze, of the "Western Congregational Church." Mr. J. Ferrier, several bills of the Republic of Hayti, (1828,) for which the thanks of the Society, are recorded. Major Latour, laid on the table, for inspection by the members, Autograph letters. (both public and private,) and unpublished, of "Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve," of dates 1660 and 1663. "Barret," Notaire Royal, 1660 and 1662; "Jeanne Mance," 1665; "Marguerite Bourgeoys," 1670; "Gabriel Sonart," 1663, 1st Curé Sulpicien; "Charles LeMoyné," de Longueuil, 1672; "Gilles Lamzon," 1672; "C. D'Ailleborest," 1673. These letters having been written in Canada, and having reference to its then state, are of unusual interest and intrinsic value. Mr. Ferrier, handed a collection of Rebellion Issue, including a note of Beausoleil, Vallie & Cie., of Montreal, 20 sous. One of "A. Pinet," of Varennes, and a Canada Bank Note of 1792, 5s., signed, Thomas Lilly, Junior. Mr. Cushing, presented a Marriage Medalet, said

to be used in the Country districts of Canada, as a Marriage Gift, also a "Fete Nationale," Medalet in Silver. Mr. Mott, proof set of George III., 1812, 3s., 1s. 6d. and 9d. Mr. Hart, a certificate of Masonry, (Parchment,) admitting Aaron Hart, (ancestor of the Secretary), a member of Trinity Lodge, No. 4, New York Registry, dated 10th June, 1760, signed by Officers of the Lodge, and Aaron Hart.

The Report of the Treasurer, was then read, showing a balance of \$146.00, to the credit of the Society, Messrs. Horn and Mott, were instructed to audit and report at next meeting. On motion of Mr. Hart, Mr. J. L. MacPherson, (366 St. Antoine Street,) and on motion of Mr. McLachlan, Mr. James Smith, (St. Antoine Street,) were duly elected ordinary members, Mr. MacPherson, at once taking his privileges as such. A desultory conversation ensued, as to the advisability of an amalgamation with the Montreal Historical Society, several members expressing themselves strongly in favor of the project, it was decided to allow the matter to stand over till the next meeting that a more decided opinion could be obtained.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were then read and confirmed.

The following Officers were elected for 1877 :

Henry Mott,	<i>President.</i>
Daniel Rose,	<i>1st. Vice-President.</i>
Major Latour,	<i>2nd Vice-President.</i>
R. W. McLachlan,	<i>Treasurer and Curator.</i>
Gerald E. Hart,	<i>Secretary.</i>

Editing Committee, Messrs. Rose, McLachlan and Mott.

The members were then shown the valuable collection belonging to the Secretary, of Canadian Coins, Medals and Rebellion Issue, including all the more rare and unique Canadian pieces that are now obtainable, as well as the minute varieties of the Canadian issue of Coins, which as far as known constitute this collection the most complete yet

formed. The Library of Works on Canada, was also examined with interest. The meeting then adjourned.

GERALD E. HART, *Secretary.*

EDITORIAL.

IN all our journeyings we are constantly on the look out for something relating to the subject most prominent in our minds,—for every one, no matter how indifferent or ignorant, has some prevailing time of thought: something in which he takes a more or less prepondering interest. That class of objects which commands our attention at home, will likely attract it when abroad. The Numismatist and Archæologist, then, when travelling, is still a collector, not merely of eligible objects for his cabinet, but in a greater degree of facts relating to them. Such facts, gleaned from the International Exhibition just closed, may serve for a thought or two.

From a casual glance through it,—for almost every visit no matter how protracted, must have been more or less casual, no one being able to take in the whole in detail—little could be learned of its numismatic and archæological treasures. The most notable object, or rather objects, in that department, were stands placed in almost every available spot, for the sale of commemoration medals. No opportunity lost for pushing the trade. Availing himself of a well known law in human nature,—that people do many things on the spur of the moment, and only purchase such object when in the humor,—the enterprising dealer so arranged his stands that, no one in the humor, could possibly change his mind without having a chance of securing one or more of these medals.

When writing of medals, we may mention, that many exhibitors displayed with their exhibits, medals awarded to them at former international and other exhibitions. Some,

especially in the British, French and German departments, shewing as many as thirty or forty. Highly meretorious were their manufactures no doubt. One or two of the larger manufacturing houses in the United States, did not fall far short of this number.

Of coins, proper, there were few if any exhibitors. Some Countries, as Japan, Turkey and Egypt, shewed along with other specimens of government requirements, sets of their latest coinage. In the Turkish department, we noticed a keen, business like Armenian, with several drawers full of Greek coins, which he offered at *Centennial* prices. He asked, for instance, eight dollars for a Didrachm of Cnidus, in ordinary preservation ; a peice that could easily be obtained from any dealer for little over a dollar. Among others he had several fine specimens of Athens, Corinth, Dyrrachium, Alexander and one or two of the Selucidæ. If he could have disposed of the whole of his stock at the same ratio it would have realized him mnch more, than the ordinary run of coin sales at present. There did not seem to be anything worthy of notice in any exhibits of those older countries whose long series of mintages runs back for nearly a thousand years.

Turning to the department of Archæology and Ethnology, we find it, as far as the continent of America is concerned, unusually complete. The Smithsonian Institute, seems to have almost bodily moved its unique collection of Indian instruments and utensils to the "Centennial." One might spend hours wandering among cases on cases of its specimens, there studying the handiwork of the aboriginal races of America. Arrow-heads, there were of every conceivable fashion and shape. Spear-heads, Knives, Stone Hammers, Chisels, Gouges and Celts in endless variety. Pottery too was well represented, while specimens of Obsidian Arrow-heads, Flakes, and Cores shewed processes in their manufacture.

Collections from the Western States, shewed the workmanship of the mound builders; that race of which the very name and age is lost. We look on these obscure records with strange feelings, knowing nothing, yet wishing to know, of their thoughts and actions, their history and their exit, for they are dead,—aye, extinct. How came they? Whence came they? Whither went they?

In the Peruvian department, were many interesting relics of the old Incas. Strange, fantastical, yet often artistic in mould is the pottery of that nation. Among their their vases and water vessels, the Archæologist might have spent days in studying these specimens of all that remains to us of "the children of the sun," whom we might regard as the Greeks of America.

Many more such objects, as worthy of attention, might be observed among the different departments, but they cannot be here enumerated: suffice to say, that as a whole, they formed the largest and most complete collection of American Archæology ever brought together.

— There is now in the possession of Dr. Dugas, of St. Henri, a valuable relic in the form of a walking-stick made from the timber of one of the ships, "La Petite Hermine," in which Jacques Cartier made his memorial voyage to this country, and sailed up the river to Montreal some 400 years ago. The stick was presented to a progenitor of Father Harkin, a relative of Mr. Dugos, and late *cure* of Sillary, Que., who in turn gave it to the Doctor. It is of oak, and still in good condition.

— The *Nord* states that, by a ukase on the 8th ult., the Emperor Alexander has instituted a bronze medal in commemoration of the brilliant service of the Russian troops at the taking of Khokand. The medal bears the inscription, "For the taking of Khokand 1875-1876."