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STANLEY CLARK BAGG.



THE

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No. 1.

A FEW WORDS ON A CANADIAN POLITICAL COIN.

BY WILLIAM KINGSFORD, ESQUIRE.



NTIL the last few years, a coin of uncouth execution, was frequently seen in the old city of Quebec and its neighbourhood. Elsewhere it was seldom found, so seldom as to suggest that its appear-

ance was fortuitous; whereas in the former political Capital of Lower Canada, so many examples were current in the strange congeries of copper coin, which the market women accepted as genuine, that the inference may be drawn, that it owes its origin to that city, and that it is there that it was minted. It is of copper, and of the rudest execution, and there are three varieties known of it.* At the first glance nothing in a limited way is more enigmatical than the legend. On the obverse we find a profile bust left, with the various readings, Vexator Canadinsis, Vexator Canadiensis and Vexator Canadensis. On the reverse, a female figure,

^{*} It is catalogued by Mr. S., miliam in his useful book, under the head, " Canada," Nos. 6, 6, and 7, Page 27,

possibly dancing, with the words, "Renunter Viscape," or "Renunillus Viscape." Many collectors have endeavored to penetrate its origin, and to trace it home to its creators, hitherto without success. Dated 1811, it is feared that there is now little chance of doing so. Nevertheless the date and legend suggest its meaning and design. The obverse is easily read. "The torment—the pest of Canada." The reverse equally offers a solution. Turning the two V's into 0 as indeed they appear to be, and subjecting the letters to true orthographic division we have Non illos Vis Cape re, a sort of questionable translation of "Don't you wish you may catch them?"

The second reverse, Non ter vis Capere, can be read as "Would you not like to catch them over again?" may be the first design incorrectly carried out; or it may possess some local allusion or some political significance now lost.

The date takes us back to the days of Sir James Craig, who left Canada in June 1811, and whose government, was one of the most stormy which Canada has experienced. The period in question may be described as the infancy of all political knowledge, and viewed from the standing point of our clear and constitutional theories of the political rights and responsibilities of each branch of the Legislature. it may be regarded, as utterly destitute of every example and every precedent admitted and followed by the modern statesman. The men of that day, with honest theories of right. and really desirous of establishing liberal institutions, seem to have been utterly ignorant of all the checks and safeguards, which must arise in any system of government-from its very artificial character. There cannot be a doubt that the complications which then arose seriously delayed the establishment of a representative responsible Executive, and that instead of that political condition being materially and easily evolved from the existing order of things, when it did come. it was to no little extent the result of force, and of bitter

dissatisfaction which yet leave behind some of their old difficulty.

A military despotism succeeded the conquest, and the treaty of Peace in 1763. It was not a form of government displeasing to the new subjects, as the French Canadians were called. For they had strong military tastes, having lived in a chronic state of war. Moreover the British Government paid in silver dollars for every service rendered and for every article supplied, in contra-distinction to the paper money which the French Government had long issued. There was nevertheless a numerous departure to France of men, of high birth and in prominent positions, and those who remained behind seem determined to have made up their minds to make the best of it, and from that day to this the loyalty to Great Britain of the French Canadian has been genuine and undoubted. There was however no little blundering on the part of the British authorities, especially in the appointment of the new officials. The Chief Justice was one Gregory who was taken out of prison in order to be sent here. The Law officers were without qualification, and as a rule ignorant of French.

Canada was divided into Departments, indeed the military element was so strong that in a country to be subjected to British institutions, the system could not long be tolerated without the Barrack gate of the Garrison, where discipline exacted it. The Quebec act of 1774 was accordingly passed—it was very unpopular in England,—and was specially petitioned against by the Corporation of London, while the present United States, ripe for separation, then, as now, utterly incapable of understanding the political and national sentiment of this country—declared, that the Dominion • of Canada is to be so extended, modelled and governed, or that by being disunited from us [the United States] detached

^{*} It is a curious fact that the title of a Contary back has been rescreated as the permanent designation of British America.

from our interests by civil as well as religious prejudices that by their numbers swelling with Catholic emigrants from Europe, and by their devotion to an administration so friendly to their religion they might become formidable to us, and on occasion be fit instruments in the hands of power, to reduce the ancient, free protestant colonies to the same state of slavery with themselves. The Quebec act, established a Council of not more than twenty-three or less than seventeen, to enact ordinances for good government—but without power to make assessment for taxes other than the inhabitants themselves would impose for municipal purposes. The ordinances were to be passed between the 1st of January and the first of May. The financial law of England was established, otherwise the ancient laws of Canada were maintained, The exercise of the Roman Catholic religion was declared free, and with the exception of the Jesuits, who had been suppressed at the period of the conquest, no community was interfered with. This state of affairs continued to the close of 1791.

There seems little doubt but that the Constitutional Act, as the Act of 1791, is called, in contradistinction to that of 1774. which is always spoken of as the Quebec Act, there seems little doubt but that this act, seperating the two Canadas was dictated by the desire of conciliating the U. E. Lovalists. In the interval, the American Revolution had passed through its full phase of establishing the independence of the Republic, and crowds of men devoted to England, had abandoned all they held in the now United States, in order still to live under British rule. So far as such as these were concerned the feeling seems to have prevailed that the existing Government of Canada, did not extend English Law, and the civil law of France was distasteful to them. Indeed there was a deep rooted distrust of any other system than that of the Mother Country. We believe that on the whole this act was even and politic. In the then condition of the roads, it would

have been almost impossible to have brought members to a a common House of Assembly, except in seasons of the year, when their presence was indispensible at home. In 1791 it is estimated that in the interval which had elapsed since the Conquest, the population of Quebec had more than doubled. So far as the mercantile resources of the Country went, they were in the hands of the English speaking population. The French Government had been perfectly unacquainted with the resources of trade which sprang naturally from the European population, and all its care and effort had been the developement of the traffic with the Indians. For then, as now, the struggle lay between the Hudson and the Saint Lawrence, and the question really was which route the then produce of the west furs, would follow. It was years after the change of government that the French Canadian turned his thoughts in that direction, and as one notes the many wealthy French Canadian persons of the present day at Montreal and Quebec, one wonders that such should have been the case. The act establishing Upper and Lower Canada, had this advantage, that it limited the field of action to two communities, which although kindred, were dissimilar, and as Mr. Pitt expressed himself, he trusted the division would be made in such a manner as to give each a majority in their own particular part, although it could not be expected to draw a complete line of separation.

Our business lies with the next twenty years of Lower Canadian history, and it is to that province we must on this occasion turn. It has been the custom with uninformed writers, and flippant speakers, to throw discredit on the sentiments which actuated the leading political men of Great Britain towards this country. With the exception of one shortcoming, which in the right time we will mention, the student rises from the perusal of the early history of the Dominion with the profound impression that no care could be more fostering; no assistance more ready and generous;

no legislation more in accordance with circumstance; no protection more chivalrous, and no affection less untainted by insincerity than that which is found in the connection between the Mother Country and these Provinces. The one omission was the neglect of social recognition of the leading men of the country when in London. With some few exceptions, and those by no means not the most happily chosen. the Canadian politician on a mission from his Province was allowed in the Imperial Capital, when his official visit terminated, to languish in unnoticed obscurity at his hotel. It was Lord Lytton who changed this unwise hauteur, and who substituted the kindly hospitality which now distinguishes Imperial statesmen in their intercourse with official men of the outer Empire. With all the teachings derived from the revolted Provinces, whatever political lessons were conveyed, the truth that the day had come when the Imperialist should cease to lord it over the Provincial had never been generally accepted. Its non-recognition in no small degree, led to the American War, for the real grievances were all capable of adjustment, while the public good sense could easily have been made to understand that George the Third, was in reality much more of a farmer than a tyrant, and that the project of the States to issue to an unlimited extent paper money would have brought ruin to their country.

The Lower Canadian House of Assembly was to consist of fifty members, and meet for the first time, on the 17th of December, 1792. The Legislative Council consisted of fifteen members. The Governor General was Lord Dorchester; but in his absence Parliament was opened by Major General Alured Clarke. The greatest unanimity prevailed.

The expenses of the civil government were £20.000 and the receipts somewhat under £4000, the deficiency being made up from the military chest. This monetary deficiency continued until 1808, when the revenue had increased to

nearly £41,000 currency, the expenditure amounting to something over £41,000 sterling; In the following year the revenue was little short of £18,000 currency in excess of expenditure. During the whole of this period the money necessary to meet the Provincial disbursements was found by Great Britain.

Lord Dorchester was succeeded by General Prescott. Concord prevailed everywhere. Everyone extolled the excellent and happy government under which they lived. There was no particular uncharitable zeal about the dogmas of religion. Inter-marriage of Protestants and Catholics were not then fenced by conditions which no gentleman can except. There was no French party, and the offensive epithets, which appear so frequently in the pages of the Canadian, were not then current. The Governors had not in each case nourished round them those nests of office-holders, who exercised for so many years, so deplorable an influence on polical life. To use the words of a modern historian "the last sun of the eighteenth century that set upon Canada left its people the happiest upon the earth; of all the sons of men it had that day shone upon."

The first political difficulty which arose to change this blissful condition can be traced to the Jesuits Estates. Shortly after the conquest the order had been suppressed by a Papal Bull in 1773, when Clement XIV. decreed the total suppression of the order. Previously to this date, however, in 1764, they had been banished from France and their property confiscated. And it was not to be supposed that under such circumstances their presence would be tolerated in Canada. The British Government, however, behaved with great liberality, all that was exacted was that no new accession should be made to the order. The then members were allowed to die out, and it was not until 1800, when the last of the body died, that the Government took possession of their Estates. General Prescott was

then in England, and the Legislature was opened by Sir R. S. Milnes.

It must be recollected that at this time the civil expenses were far from being met by revenue. Moreover in the preceding year the imperial Government had made a loan to the province for the purpose of building the Law Courts in Montreal and Quebec, and hence writing as we do dispassionately, seventy years after the event, the proceedings taken on this occasion seem remarkably unwise, and utterly unwarranted on any ground of right or expediency. A motion was made in the assembly that the House do resolve itself into a Committee to consider the most proper measures of obtaining information concerning the rights and pretensions which the Province may have upon the Jesuits' buildings. Mr. Young of the Executive Council immediately rose and said that he was authorized to inform the members, that with the advice of the Executive Council, His Majesty had assumed possession of the Estates. The House, nevertheless, went into Committee and an address was voted asking for copies of all documents and official reports, particularly a report of a Commission made in June, 1789. On the address being presented the Governor answered that the property had been taken by the Crown, and that if the Assembly deemed it advisable to persist in their investigation he would allow access to all papers, but he left it to themselves to consider, whether it was consistent with the respect which they had uniformly manifested to their Sovereign to reiterate any application on the subject. The matter was postponed by general consent. But in the following year an act was introduced for the Corporation of the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning and for the establishment of free Schools, enacting that a suitable proportion of the lands of the Crown should be set apart for the purpose. It became law, but no appropriation was made. The Roman Catholic Clergy opposed it, and the very proposition with some of the

young French Canadian politicians entering public life was urged as a reproach against the Executive.

Misunderstandings now commenced to multiply. What is known as the "gaols act" led to much ill feeling, in which the English population must ever have modern criticism against them. The leading members of the mercantile community protested against the policy of the Legislature, which had laid down a tariff on imported articles, a policy which undoubtedly would find favor to day. The proposition of placing a provincial tax on land which then divided the community into parties would scarcely now find a defender. Another incident of apparently more importance, but in reality which laid down a very important principle occurred at this period. The Assembly asked for an increase of the French Translator's salary. The Lieutenant Governor refused to accede to the request as it was made, and we are sure every one with the least constitutional knowledge will say very wisely. The writers who record the event do not seem to recognize the ground of repeal, indeed to be puzzled somewhat that so trifling a matter should cause unpleasantness. The Lieut. Governor answer the address by saying he must resist a precedent, which might lead to injurious consequences, further alluding to the omission of observances which tend to preserve a due harmony between the Executive House and the other branches of the Legislature. The fact really is, that if the House of Assembly alone, without the other House, could vote that any one salary be raised, it could vote likewise the reduction of any other salary, and thus an official disliked by the majority would be at their mercy. The matter itself was undoubtedly trifling but the mode taken to urge it, was so contrary to true parliamentary usage, that it could not be accepted. The assembly, however, seem to have had very exalted ideas of its prerogatives, and it thought that the best way to apprise them was to enter into a crusade against the Press. The leading spirit on this occasion was M. P. Bedard, a man of ability, and possessing much in his character to exact respect, but disqualified for the part he assumed as the advocate of what he called Constitutional Government. He seems to have been entirely ignorant of those maxims which are now recognized by men of all parties. His doctrine may be set forth in a phrase. The supremacy of the House of Assembly with the side issue of a jail for those who criticised it, based on the assertion of its entire independance of the Governor General and the Legislative Council. These opinions soon found occasion for practically showing their force and the parties who furnished it were the publisher of the Montreal Gazette, of the 7th April, 1805, and the chairman of a public dinner, Mr. Isaac Todd. The former had inserted the toasts given by the latter, and the crime consisted in proposing the health of those representatives in parliament who had advocated a constitutional mode of taxation for building gaols.

"On the motion of Pierre Bedard, Esq." the house voted this simple proceeding a false, scandalous and malicious libel, and the deputy sergeant of arms proceeded to Montreal to take the two recusants in custody. The latter could not be found and so the matter dropped. The second attack was on Mr. Cary, the proprietor of the Quebec Mercury. Until 1805 the press rarely dealt with religious or political questions, and it was at this period the Quebec Mercury appeared as a weekly paper. It was the organ of Government House, not of the Governor himself, but of the clique of irresponsible office holders, who managed to lay their grasp upon power, and who fatally directed the policy of this country, in the first years of this century. We quite agree with Garneau's view of these gentry.*

Any change to them, was for the worse. Judging things

[&]quot;" Les Functionnaires publics " qui ce croyaient au dessus d'elle, [la Chambre] comme le rusiquaient leur conduite, et leur langage. Ce cual " que a Contribue aux evenements politiques qui ont eu lieu plus tard."

by their present value, they were paid three fold what a minister of the Crown or a judge now receives, and the income of many were increased by fees. They formed a small society among themselves, interchanging social patronage, and they affected an exclusiveness with habitual arrogance. unredeemed by little claim to merit. Side by side with this appellation of position, ran that full blown feminine insolence, so frequently mistaken by the weak minds, who indulge in it, for high and dignified manners. "Intolerabilices nibil est quam fæmina divas," Juvenal tells us. Translating divas by the words, with an official husband, we can make the application of the saying to these terms. Certainly in this epoch of Canadian history no little of the political complication was attributed to the intolerable impertenance of the wives of the men who held office. This element of petty jealousies of a small heart burning and social affectations, threw its poisonous tinge over more important questions; and it continued until the establishment of responsible government. The first shock against it came from Lord Durham. His successors strangled the Hydra.

To be Continued.

WHY THE ANCIENTS HAD NO PRINTED BOOKS.

From Blackwood's Magazine)

had not the advantage of printed books? The answer will be, from 99 persons in 100—because the mystery of printing was not then discovered.

But this is altogether a mistake. The secret of printing must have been discovered many thousand of times before it was used, or *could* be used. The inventive powers of manare divine; and also his stupidity is divine—as Cowper so play-

fully illustrates in the slow devolpment of the sofa through successive generations of immortal dulness. It took centuries of blockheads to raise a joint stool into a chair, and it required something like a miracle of genius, in the estimate of elder generations, to reveal the possibility of lengthening a chair into a chaise longue, or a sofa. Yes, these were inventions that cost mighty throes of intellectual power. But still, as respects printing, admirable as is the stupidity of man, it was really not quite equal to the task of evading an object which stared him in the face with so broad a gaze. It did not require an Athenian intellect to read the main secret of printing in many scores of processes which the ordinary uses of life were daily repeating. To say nothing of analogous artifices amongst various mechanic artisians, all that is essential in printing must have been known to every nation that struck coins and medals. Not, therefore, any want of a printing art-that is, of an art for multiplying impressions—but the want of a cheap material for receiving such impressions, was the obstacle to an introduction of printed books even as early as Pisistratus. The ancients did apply printing to records of silver and gold, to marble, and many other substances cheaper than gold and silver, they did not, since each monument required a separate effort of inscription. Simply this defect it was of a cheap material for receiving impresses, which froze in its very fountains the early resources of printing. Some years ago, this view of the case was luminously expounded by Dr. Whately, the present Archbishop of Dublin, and with the merit, I believe, of having first suggested it. Since then, this theory has received indirect confirmation

[—] Casts in plaster first invented in Florence by Verichio, 1470.

⁻ Canals in modern style first made in Europe in Italy, 1481.

A VISIT FROM THE OLDEST INHABITANT.

BY STANLEY C. BAGG.

(Numa.)



NE evening, while musing on the changed appearance of Montreal, I conjured up pictures of the past with great rapidity. There stood before me, as in days of yore, the old Market opposite

my father's Counting House, in the centre of what is now called Custom House Square. The ancient Palace of the French Intendants in St. Jean Baptiste Street, within whose venerable walls I attended a course of law lectures. The old pump in Notre Dame Street, where the townsfolk came to fill their buckets. And the "Haunted House" on the declivity of the mountain, near the McTavish Monument. with its marvellous legend that every attempt to complete the building had been frustrated by some mysterious agency, unaccountable noises being heard therein, heavy blocks of masonry displaced therefrom, and the tools of the workmen thrown about in the wildest confusion! reverie was interrupted by the apparition of an aged man clad in a suit of grey Canadian cloth, with a red sash around his waist. He bowed, wiped his moccasins on the door mat, took of his blue worsted cap, stuck his mittens in his sash, knocked the ashes out of his short clay pipe, and putting it in the hood of his overcoat, addressed me in French. saying :- "My time is short, but if agreeable, I will tell you of Montreal as it was?" I accepted his offer with many thanks, and sitting down he at once commenced. " Although I claim not kindred with the Wandering Jew, I have attained a great age and have visited many lands, yet I know not any city that has altered so much as Montreal. Nearly all the old landmarks are gone, and if your Antiquarian Society does not bestir itself I fear very few monuments of the early history of the place will be left. But to my story,—I shall not touch upon the pre-historic annals of the island, but will notice, in passing, the three famous Frenchmen who visited it before the foundation of the city.

In the Autum of 1535, Cartier sailed up from Quebec, anchored his boats at the foot of the current, and walked towards Hochelaga. The way was pleasant, the country beautiful, and the oak trees along the route were as fine as any in France. Where the brook crosses McGill College grounds he was met by a deputation of the aborigines, afterwards he came into the presence of their king, was conducted through cornfields to the town, and subsequently ascended the mountain. Cartier's description of the locality, taken in connection with the statement of the missionaries. and the discovery of Indian Antiquities, place the town of Hochelaga on the space between Mansfield Street to a little west of Metcalfe Street in one direction, and in the other from a little south of Burnside Place, to within sixty yards of Sherbrooke Street. In this area several skeletons. hundreds of old fire places, indications of huts, bones of wild animals, pottery, and implements of stone and bone have been found. Champlain repaired to the vicinity of Hochelaga in 1611, and cleared the triangular piece of land at the junction of the rivulet St. Pierre with the River St. Lawrence, subsequently called Pointe-a-Callière, for the purpose of creeting an Indian trading post.

Maissoneuve landed at the same place in the spring of 1642. The rivulet was bordered by a meadow, and beyond rose the forest with its vanguard of scattered trees, the birds flitted among the boughs, and early spring flowers were blooming in the young grass. There was a time when Montreal was surrounded by a wall, flanked with redoubts. The batteries on the Citadel, (Dalhousie Square,) commanded the streets, and the ramparts were a favorite promenade. A sallyport opposite the Italian Bridge, which connected Pointe-a-Callière with the town, Market Gate, St. Mary's

Gate, Water Gate, another sallyport, and Barrack Gate, were the entrances to the town on the river side. There was a gate on St. Mary Street, near Lacroix Street, and another on Notre Dame Street, near McGill Street. St. Laurent gate and a sally port leading to Pont Royal, were the only entrances at the back of the town. The principal buildings were constructed of stone, roofed with tin, and secured by iron shutters.

The objects of interest were :--in St. James Street, the Powder Magazine; -- in Notre Dame Street, the Fur Traders' Palace, or Le Vieux Chateau, built one hundred and seventy years ago, by Governor de Ramezay, chosen after the conquest for the residence of the British Governor. and now the Jacques Cartier Normal School house. The Jesuits Convent and Church; the Congregational Nunnery; the old French Parish Church, encroaching on the Place d'Armes; the Seminary; the Post Office; the Court House and Jail; and the Recollet Convent and Church, used at certain hours, for the Anglican service :- in St. Paul Street. the old Market; the Hotel Dieu Nunnery; the Palace of Governor Vaudrieul; the Bonsecours Church, still standing, the foundation of which was laid in 1658, and the Custom House, near Water gate. Outside the walls at Pointe-a-Callière were several buildings, including the Hospital General, and the wharf at the Pointe was called Ouai de Franchere. In the centre of Craig Street, ran a creek containing sufficient water at certain seasons to permit voyageurs en route for Lachine, to start in their canoes from the corner of St. Lawrence Street. In rear of the Citadel there was a pond. further westward Gallows green, then a swamp, and at the corner of St. Lawrence Street a water mill, the wheel of which was turned by a stream that came down one side of St. Lawrence Street. The Country residence of the French Governors was at Pres de Ville; the Friars are the present occupants of the property. There were two Windmills near

the town; one stood in a field opposite Durham House, (the oldest residence in St. Lawrence Street, above Sherbrooke,) the other, now called the Morgue, stands on Windmill Point. Where St. Urbain and Ontario Streets intersects, was a ravine, the banks on either side were high, and the place was called la Carte des Casse tetes, because the Indians tomahawked their infirm in it. On the mountain side stood the Chateau des Seigneurs. It was surrounded by a wall pierced for musketry, and the gate was flanked with towers, precautions at the time considered necessary to resist Indian attacks. The towers and part of the walls remain, but the Chateau has disappeared." Here the narrator abruptly stopped, he had also disappeared! His exit was as mysterious as his entrance.

THE HARBOR OF MONTREAL IN 1818, AND IN 1872.

BY T. S. BROWN.



CAME to Montreal, on the 28th day of May, 1818, in a Batteau from Laprarie--no steamer had made the trip at the time--and landed on a sloping rough beach, exactly where the pier

next below the Custom House runs out to the Island wharf, and St. Lambert Ferry. What is now the Island wharf was then a rocky Island separated from the main land by a Channel about one hundred feet wide. On my left was a small brook called the "Creek," being the discharge of a wide open ditch, that ran from the Champ de Mars, through Craig Street, round to Inspector Street, and then down Commissioners Street to a stone bridge, crossing at the bottom of St. Francois Navier Street. From this till near the river it ran between the wall of a rough stone building on the site of the present Custom House, and another wall



MONTREAL HARBOR FIFTY YEARS AGO.

that supported Commissioners Street. Above the brook a low narrow wooden wharf ran to Port Street, Common Street being supported by a wooden revetment, with gaps for sloping roadway to the river. All beyond Port Street was the natural Bank, the same as in front of country villages, except a small wharf opposite the north end of Youville Street, at which point, then called Pointe a Blondeau, there was a cottage, with garden in front, running down to the water. Here, too, was a ship yard, and the east wall of the Grey Nunnery. Further on, all was vacant, except some buildings at the corner of Grey Nun Street, and beyond here, open fields, running up to Point St. Charles, with three windmills, the graves of three soldiers, shot for desertion, and the Nuns' buildings at Point St. Charles, since used for offices, while Victoria bridge was in course of construction. The Lachine Canal had not been commenced, and distances appeared so much farther than now, that the river front was divided into "Pointe-a-Callière," "Pointe a Blondeau," "Windmill Point" and "Point St. Charles." Directly before me was a sloping beach running up to an opening or street between low houses, forming the east side. On the square, now occupied by the old Custom House, and then by the "old Market," so much frequented by Country people, that they blocked the approaches, and had sometimes to be driven away by constables to the "new market," then built on Jacques Cartier Square.

On my right, the natural beach continued down to Hochelaga, or "the Cross" as it was then called. A wooden revetment held up Commissioner Street, and St. Sulpice Street and thence downward there was nothing but the natural bank, on which weeds grew profusely. There may have been something more opposite the Barracks. The buildings fronting on the river, were mostly old, low and delapidated. A good part of the space was occupied by walls and mean outbuildings of the houses fronting on St. Paul Street. The

new buildings were the three story brick stores just above St. Diziers Lane, and a three story store just below.

The "spring fleet," mostly in port, (a part may have arrived a few days later), consisted of, I think, half a dozen brigs of from 180 to 250 tons burthen, moored to the muddy beach; below them were some "Durham boats," which we should now call small barges, navigators to Upper Canada, carrying a very large fore and aft sail and top-sail. Wind then had to do what is now done by steam. Below these, opposite the present Jacques Cartier Square, were moored many rafts-mostly of firewood. There were no Steamboats except those running to Ouebec, clumsy things. with bluff bows, built on the model of Sailing Vessels, rigged with bowsprit, high mast and square sail; the deck flush, and cabins all below. Their steam power was so small that they could not get fifty miles from Quebec unless they left with the tide; and oxen were frequently used in assisting them up the current, below the city. All the structure on the deck of the largest, called the "Car of Commerce," was a square house over the stairway, which may still be seen, converted into a summer house, with gallery surrounding, at St. Catherines, that all may notice on the right side of the road, when riding round the moun-There were no tow boats then. Vessels from sea had to make their way to Montreal by wind which often took a month or more, the worst being the last mile where I have seen oxen used on a tow line, as otherwise the light winds would be insufficient to enable them to overcome the force of the strong current.

The "Ship" of the period was the Eweretta from London, which arrived some days after, and summer goods were advertised about the middle of June, there being then no way of getting Spring and Summer "fashions" earlier, so that our ladies were always one year behind the age. I have in my possession a bill of lading of goods by this ship, dated

25 March, 1800. She brought the supplies to the "Northwest Company," which then carried on the great Indian Trade, from Montreal by canoes, up to Lake Superior, and onwards. The Ship remained moored at the foot of St. Sulpice Street, all summer, till the canoes returned with the year's catch of furs, and carried them to England.

Such was the Port of Montreal on the 28th May, 1818. I visited it at the end of fifty four years, on the 28th May, 1872. And what did I see?

A Canal of the largest dimensions coming in at Windmill point, and the old fields converted into basins, filled with steamers, schooners and barges, one side fringed by manufactories, and the other by lofty warehouses, and platforms filled with merchandise. From "Pointe a Blondeau," or Grey Nun Street, to the Barracks, there is a high stone revetment wall, supporting Commissioners Street, with Ramps at convenient distances, leading to a broad wharf or platform running down to below the barracks and Dalhousie Square, along which is a track for Railway Cars, and from which project many piers, one connecting with the Island before mentioned, and others lower down, extending further out. This platform or line wharf, and the piers, are covered and filled with merchandise, of all descriptions, in bars, bundles, casks, cases, boxes, and bales, a part being covered with temporary sheds. The quantity and weight is so immense, that one wonders where it comes from, and where it goes to, but the immense mass extending along Harbor and Canal for a mile, is but a small portion of what is passing into or through the port, for while countless carts, and cars, are daily removing from one side, steamers and ships fill up every space by discharging on the other, with steam power and regiments of laborers. The taking in of the cargo is going on at the same time and elevators alongside the ships are taking from propellors alongside from the west and far west thousands of bushels of grain. Instead of the half a dozen

brigs of 1818, with an aggregate tonnage of twelve to fifteen hundred tons discharging slowly with skids on a rough beach there lays one steamer that will measure more than the whole put together. In all there is in port, stretched along the wharves and piers from Grey Nun Street to below the barracks, 21 Ocean Steamers, 22,612 tons; 20 Ships, 17,710 tons: 22 Barques, 12,409 tons; 3 Brigs, 760 tons; 4 Brigantines and Schooners, 278 tons, in all 70 Vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 53,769 tons. The shoal (I have often seen it nearly bare) below the foot of St. Sulpice Street has been dredged and wharfed to accommodate ships drawing twenty feet of water. A Quebec Steamer not stumpy, low and flush deck, but long, built on a skiff model, with two stories of state rooms, raised above the deck, is at a pier at the bottom of Jacques Cartier Square, stretching out beyond the limits of the old fire-wood rafts, brought down by farmers from Chateaguay or neighbouring regions, to be sold in June, when they were impatient to get home, for two dollars a cord. Directly below is a fleet of "Market Boats," really elegant steamers, of modern build, that navigate to all ports down to "Three Rivers." Mixed with these are a fleet of "Wood Barges," rigged on the principle of a Chinese Junk, (which some of them resemble on a small scale), with a very high mast, and very long square-sail yards. These bring up fire wood, hay, grain, lumber, &c., from below, a trade little dreamed of in old times. Further down are piles of boards, planks, and other lumber, and ships being loaded with it for the South Atlantic or perhaps Pacific, and work is in progress for continuing the wharves to Hochelaga where I have seen many ships launched.

Where stood the "Mansion House," (in 1818 our great hotel), a former residence of Sir John Johnson, and dwelling houses, with small gardens there is now the Bonsecour Market. The old walls, and sheds, along the "front" to "Pointe-a-Calliére," are replaced by tall warehouses.

An elegant Custom House on the Pointe replaces an old potash store. Other warehouses are built on the old ship yard, and the Grey Nuns having removed to their new establishment on Guy Street, their buildings are disappearing, St. Peter Street being continued to the harbor by cutting directly through their old church.

Such was the aspect of the harbor of Montreal in 1818, and such is it to day, [1872], and I sincerely hope this article may be preserved, to be republished half a century hence, accompanied by a description of the harbor as it then is.

[Note.—Of Ocean Steamers in Port, one is over 2,000 tons, and 10 are from 1,000 to 1,725 tons. The largest ship is 1,774 tons, and seven are over 1,000 tons each. Nine of the largest steamers, ten ships, and two barks, making nearly one third in number of the closes of vessels in port, and more than two lifths of all the tonnage, belong to the "Allan" lines. Three of the largest class steamers for Europe, and eighteen small brigantines for the lower ports, had already cleared from Port, since opening of Navigation. First arrival, a schooner from winter quarters, 25th April. First arrival from Sec. S S "Scandinaviar," 5th May, cleared, 7th May,

HIGH PRICES OF PROVISIONS IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 18TH CENTURY.



HE brave long-winded, enduring and frugal inhabitants, constantly employed in parties against the English Colonies, had not time to cultivate their lands, and though the scarcity of grain had

long been made known to the Government of the country, yet the creatures and friends of Intendant Bigot were allowed to ship off vast quantities of wheat to the West Indies to the manifest injury of the people of the colony, so much so, that wheaten bread was a rarity, and they had to subsist on oats and barley. This proved to be the case for some time after the conquest, as may be seen by the Proclamation issued in January, 1760. "By His Excellency James Murray, Esquire Brigadier-General, &c., &c. of all His Majesty's Forces in the River St. Laurence." &c, &c., who found it necessary to fix the prices of provisions at the

following rates, to license all "British Bakers and Butchers," and order that a departure from them should entail a penalty of five pounds, and imprisonment if the offence was repeated:

—Bread, per lb: white 5d; middling sort, 4d; Brown 3d. Butcher's meat: beef, 5d; mutton, 10d; veal, 6d; pork, 4d." Prices had been much higher before the proclamation of this order, and it is a wonder how the French officials managed to make both ends meet. Monsieur Bigot's "card money" factory was then in full blast, and as he managed in three years alone, 1757-9, to issue letters of Exchange on the French Treasury to the amount of 60,000,000 livres, which were duly honored, it is clear that they could well afford to pay more than 5d, for white bread and 10d, for mutton.

THE LATE DR. ANDERSON.



HE cause of Archaeology and History, amongst our Quebec friends, by the death of Dr. Anderson, late President of the Literary and Historical Society, has lost one of its lights. The following

tribute to departed worth, is from the pen of J. M. LeMoine, to whom Dr. Anderson succeeded as President:

William James Anderson, M. D. & L. R. C. S. E., of British parentage, was born at sea, off the Isle of Anhalt, Denmark, on the 2nd Nov., 1812: this would make him 61 years of age, at the time of his demise on the 15th May, 1873. He was educated at Edinburgh, where he took his degree as a a physician and surgeon. By profession, he was a doctor of medicine, by taste, a litterateur.

We are safe in saying that his death deprives the Literary and Historical Society, of which he had been thrice elected president, of one of its most indefatigable members and the "Ancient Capital" of one of its urbane and most worthy citizens.

The subject of this notice ever found pleasure in promoting the cause of science amongst his fellow-men, and with the co-operation of other kindred spirits, strove hard to foster in our midst the intellectual aspirations of refined European and American communities. He used to take special pleasure in relating how at the early age of seventeen, he saw the immortal author of Waverly, though at that time (1829) the "great unknown" was verging to his decline.

Our old friend was remarkable for his retentive memory, cultivated literary taste, unwearing research, indomitable pluck joined to the fervor of youth, when upholding a cause once espoused. Woe betide the luckless adversary who presumed to challenge his oft hasty statements. One might be tempted to regret, in the interest of Canadian history, that providence did not vouchsafe to him a longer career, which by affording time for deeper research and familiarising him with the French as well as the English authorities, ought to have furnished matured views. The sacred cause of historical truth cannot have too many guarantees.

For several years Dr. Anderson practised his profession at Pictou, N. S.; he was the medical officer of the port during the fearful summer of 1847, when typhus and ship fever spread mourning through the length and breadth of Canadian land. Fearless in the path of duty, unappalled by death in its most loathsome form, he too was struck down at his post. Delirious for several days, the singular vitality of his constitution at last prevailed. But the germs of a fatal disease—tubercular consumption—had been generated; the angel of health had alas! fled forever. Nothing daunted, his brave spirit fought on nobly, and after some other severe reverses, embittered by domestic sorrow (the loss of a beloved wife), we find him established at Quebec in 1860. The writer was daily thrown in contact with Dr. Anderson, when it became urgent to rescue the Literary and Historical

Society from the "slough of despond," into which the removal of the seat of Government from Quebec to Ottawa had nigh thrust it. It may be recollected that on that occasion the Society lost not only a large preportion of its members, but its President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary; in fact nearly the whole of its staff of office-bearers. To resuscitate it, "a long pull, a strong pull, a pull altogether" was required, and Dr. Anderson was the man when work was the word. The result all can see with their own eyes. Never was the institution on such a sound footing in its palmiest days of the past. It numbers nearly 300 members, the *elite* amongst the educated English and French of Quebec.

For Lectures, Essays, Committees, Reports, the doctor, a man of leisure, was ever on hand. No weather could deter him, when he had on a lecture night to "take the chair," and when with utterance measured, slow, and feeble, he stood up as President to tender the lecturer the thanks of the Society, possibly striving hard at that very moment to silence the merciless foe preying for years on his vitals, with his dignified mien and flowing beard frosted by suffering, there was not in the room a man who, though he might not concur in his views, would not have stood forth to protect the white hairs of the "old President," had the breath of calumny assailed them. Dr. Anderson's writings are disseminated through the Transactions of the Society, published for the last eight years. He was also a not unfrequent contributor to the daily press. His chief work, however-one which in the golden days of our youth, when "Colonies" were something -the Biography of the late Duke of Kent, the father of our august Queen, might, if written then, have brought him honors. It is certain the compilation of these unpublished letters of the Duke addressed to the De Salaberry family, have had the effect to dispel more than one unfounded prejudice against Royal Edward, the neglected son of "Farmer George." We believe the Doctor received a civil letter from a certain royal Secretary on this subject. Canadian History was a favorite study of our old friend; several works on Canada, the St. Lawrence its scenery, mineral resources; a Guide to Quebec; a variety of papers on Canadian subjects, such are some of the contributions of Dr. Anderson's prolific pen to Canadian Literature,

Followed by many distinguished citizens, and by a crowd of old friends, his mortal remains were on the 17th May escorted to St. Michael's Chapel, Sillery, and there, after an impressive service, read by the Rev. Geo. V. Housman, Rector of Quebec, they were committed by sorrowing relatives to their last, their silent home, under the "whispering pines" and venerable oaks of Mount Hermon, close to the green banks overhanging the shore of the great river, the St. Lawrence, which he had so well described, which he loved so well.

CRACKED COINS.

From the " Royal Mint," by G. F. Ansell.



T has been conceived that coins are made of two discs of metal soldered together, and that the crenated, or milled edge, is intended to hide the join. This notion has arisen from the occasion-

al appearance of a cracked coin in circulation, the true explanation of the cracked coin being that at the time of pouring the fluid metal into the mould, an air bubble has been enclosed, and this air bubble has rent the fillet asunder at the time of its being rolled; but the separation does not exhibit itself until the final annealing, when it is too late for its discovery; recently, however, it has become a custom to ring the coined gold before it goes into circulation, and thus to detect and stop such defective pieces."

PRIVATEERING IN THE LAST CENTURY.

BY MENRY MOTT.



ROM this neutral "loop-hole" we may look out upon the world and watch the course of events, and we take this opportunity of expressing our unbounded satisfaction at the peaceful solution

of the differences of opinion which had arisen between England and the United States. We regard it as a new starting point in civilization, that two such nations can adjust their troubles, without an appeal to the sword, and thus proclaim to the world that the game of nations settling their differences by war is now ended.

By way of contrast we give a copy of an advertisement which we extract from *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, February 13th, 1781:—

"The Hawk Privateer of Leith, commanded by Captain Nicoll Currie, is now fitting out with all expedition, and will soon sail on a cruize against the enemies of Great Britain.—She is a Brig of about 120 tons burden, sails fast, and will mount ten or twelve guns besides swivels, and has excellent accommodation for Men.

Seamen and Landmen desirous of making their fortunes have now a favourable opportunity, and will meet with encouragement to enter themselves on board the Hawk, by applying immediately to Captain Currie at his home in Leith, or on board the Privateer.

Captain Currie hopes that if any of those brave lads who have formerly sailed with him are now at home, they will immediately resolve to join their old Ship-mate, and pursue their fortunes with him.

N. B. A person who can speak and read the French and Dutch languages, will meet with good encouragement by applying as above."

The Hawk! Fit name for a ship engaged in such a traffic,

and may we not regard it as equally worthy of note that, probably the last of the long line of privateers should be called "Alabama" which means in its original language "Here is rest."



THE "KEBEKA LIBERATA" MEDAL.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.



ANADIAN Numismatists, will ever attach importance to this interesting medal, not alone for the beauty and completeness of its design, but for the historic associations which cluster around it-

Added to this, is the fact, that it was probably the first medal struck in commemoration of any important event connected with the history of our Dominion. In order to fully comprehend the importance of the event to which it refers, it is necessary to briefly review the state of New France during the years immediately preceding Phipps' attack on Quebec. Until the extension of the British settlement in United States, Canada enjoyed an almost uninterrupted tranquility, but when in 1682, M.de la Barre arrived as Vice Roy

he found that the English were by the payment of more liberal prices for furs, &c., drawing away a great portion of the French trade, and the Iroquois Indians were even purchasing from the Huron Allies of the French, and selling again to the English. Efforts were put forth to stop this trade, but the attempt proved more than a failure, it incensed the English and their Indian Allies, and for years the French settlements were kept in a state of constant agitation and alarm. To meet the emergency, Count de Frontenac who had during his former vice royalty, gained great influence over the Indians, was in 1689, again sent in the same capacity. Under ordinary circumstances he might have succeeded in his mission, but the war between England and France broke out, and the Iroquois wisely foresaw that their interests lay with the English settlers, and therefore allied themselves to the strongest side. Incursions were now made by the French into the English settlements, and with such secrecy that the unsuspecting inhabitants of many villages and towns, were taken prisoners or massacred without an opportunity for defence. The people of New England and New York, determined to drive the French out of Canada altogether, and preparations were made for an attack on Quebec and Montreal. The expedition against Quebec, comprising 34 ships and 2,000 volunteers, under Sir W. Phipps, sailed from Boston on August 19th, reaching Ouebec, Oct. 16. Frontenac had but three days before received warning of the departure of the expedition, when he at once adopted measures for defence.

A summons to surrender was sent by Phipps to the sturdy Count. The English messenger was so completely surprised by the reception he met with, and the ceremonies through which he was compelled to pass, while blindfolded, that it required some time ere he sufficiently recovered from his embarrassment to enable him to present his summons with the dignity he so naturally considered as necessary

to the position. The reply by the Governor was such as might have been expected in response to the arrogant terms laid downin Phipps' summons, and when the messenger asked a written answer, the Count replied, "Retire Sir; tell your general that the muzzle of my cannon will forthwith bear my answer to the rude summons he has sent me." True to his word, the orders were given and the batteries opened upon the enemy with telling effect. Sir Wm. sought by strategy to gain an advantage over the enemy, but signally failed, and retired from the conflict leaving the artillery he had landed as a prize to the French. Such is a brief account of the event which is commemorated on the medal known as the "Kebeka Liberata," and which was struck by order of the French King.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN 1759.



T this period Montreal contained 4,000 inhabitants, Three Rivers 1,500, and Quebec 6,700, the total population of the colony being estimated at 90, 000-8,000 of whom were Indians. Nevertheless

the military organization of the Province was so perfect that Montreal alone had a militia force of about 1,000 effective men. This was by virtue of the Feudal Law of Fiefs, which obliged every man in the colony—the Noblesse excepted—to enroll himself in the militia, and provided for the appointment of a Captain in every Parish, who was responsible to Government for the drill and good order of his men.

Smith, in his History of Canada, states that "when the Government wanted the services of the Militia as soldiers, the Colonel of Militia, or the Town Majors, in consequence of a requisition from the Governor General, sent orders to the several Captains of Militia in the Country Parishes, to furnish a certain number of Militiamen chosen by those officers, who ordered the drafts into town under an escort

commanded by an officer of Militia who conducted them to the Town Major, who furnished each Militiaman with a gun, a capot, a Canadian cloak, a breach clout, a cotton shirt, a cap, a pair of leggings, a pair of Indian shoes and a blanket, After which they were marched to the garrison for which they were destined. The Militia were generally reviewed once or twice a year to inspect their arms."

The historian omits to state what drill they were subjected to, but we gather from other sources that they acted as partisans or bush rangers, and the employment being congenial to the martial race, they readily came forward whenever the war drum sounded, and the French Carignan, Carillon, Languedoc, Bearne, Guienne, La Sarre, Berry and Royal Roussilfon Infantry regiments, then stationed in the colony, marched forward to the tune of Malbrouk s'en va en guerre. We learn from the same source, and quote the statement for the edification of the public of the present day—that the French Canadians, although only numbering from 80,000 to 90,000 souls,—Amherst's regiments being included in the previous enumeration of the population of the colony,—were so martial, and well organized that they had 64 companies, or 7,976 men in the Government of Quebec, 19 companies, or 1,115 men in the Government of Three Rivers, and 87 companies, comprising 7,331 men in the Government of Montreal, "while the total effective Militiamen at the reduction of the colony numbered 20,433 men."

VALUE OF A BAWBEE.

HEN the Castle of Edinburgh was besieged in 1573, we find Sir William Drury writing to Lord Burghley at Leith.

"June 5, 1573. By computation there hath been 3,000 great shot bestowed against the castle in this service, and the bullets of all, or the most part recovered, and brought again, part by our own labours, and part by the Scots, paying to the Scottish people a piece of their coin called a 'bawbee' for every bullet, which is in value English one halfpenny."

THE OLD SCOTTISH MINT.

BY R. CHAMBERS.

HE Cunyie House, as the Scottish Mint used to be called, was near Holyrood Palace in the days of Queen Mary. In the regency of Morton, a large house was erected for it in the Cowgate, where

it may still be seen, with the following inscription over the door:

BE. MERCYFULL. TO. ME. O. GOD. 1574

In the reign of Charles II., other buildings were added behind, forming a neat quadrangle; and here was the Scottish coin produced till the Union, when a separate coinage was given up, and this establishment abandoned; though, to gratify prejudice, the officers were still kept up as sinecures. This court, with its buildings, was a sanctuary for persons prosecuted for debt, as was the King's Stables, a mean place at the west end of the Grassmarket. There was, however, a small den near the top of the oldest building, lighted by a small window looking up the Cowgate, which was used as a jail for debtors or other delinquents condemned by the Mint's own officers.

In the western portion of the old building, accessible by a stair from the court, is a handsome room with an alcove ceiling, and lighted by two handsomely proportioned windows, which is known to have been the council-room of the Mint, being a portion of the private mansion of the master. Here, in May 1590, on a Sunday evening, the town of Edinburgh entertained the Danish lords who accompained James VI. and his queen from her native court—namely.

Peter Monk, the admiral of Denmark; Stephen Brahe, captain of Eslinburg [perhaps a relative of Tycho?]; Braid Ransome Maugaret: Nicholaus Theophilus, Doctor of Laws; Henry Goolister, captain of Bocastle; William Vanderwent; and some others. For this banquet, 'maid in Thomas Aitchinsoune, master of the cunyie-house lugeing,' it was ordered 'that the thesaurer caus by and lay in foure punsheons wyne; John Borthuik baxter to get four bunnis of bier, with foure gang of aill, and to furneis breid; Henry Charteris and Roger Macnacht to caus hing the hous with tapestrie, set the burdis, furmis, chandleris [candlesticks], and get flowris; George Carketill and Rychert Doby to provyde the cupbuirds and men to keep thame; and my Lord Provost was content to provyde naprie and twa dozen greit veschell, and to avance ane hunder pund or mair, as thai sall haif a do.

In the latter days of the Mint as an active establishment, the coining-house was in the ground-floor of the building, on the north side of the court; in the adjoining house, on the east side was the finishing-house, where the money was polished and fitted for circulation. The chief instruments used in coining were a hammer and steel dies, upon which the device was engraved. The metal being previously prepared of the fineness and thickness, was cut into longitudinal slips; and a square piece being cut from the slip, it was afterwards rounded and adjusted to the weight of the money to be made, The blank pieces of metal were then placed between two dies, and the upper one was struck with a hammer. After the Restoration, another method was introduced -that of the mill and screw-which, modified by many improvements, is still in use. At the Union, the ceremony of destroying the dies of the Scottish coinage took place in the Mint. After being heated red-hot in a furnace, they were defaced by three impressions of a broad-faced punchwhich were of course visible on the dies as long as they existed; but it must be recorded, that all these implements which would now have been great curiosities, are lost, and none of the machinery remains but the press, which weighing about half a ton, was rather too large to be readily appropriated, or perhaps it would have followed the rest.

The floors over the coining-house—bearing the letters, C. R. II., surmounting a crown, and the legend, GOD SAVE THE KING, 1674, originally the mansion of the master—was latterly occupied by the eminent Dr. Cullen, whose family were all born here, and whe died here himself in 1792.

RECENT COINAGE OF AUSTRIA & GERMANY.

(From the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint, U. S. for the Vear ending June, 1872.)

AUSTRIA.



S in other nations of Europe the coinage of this empire has been, during the last few years, in a state of transition, we might almost say of confusion. There are three series of gold coins of

different basis, and as many of silver, without respect to the differences of device and inscription, growing out of the severance of Hungary from Austria proper.

They still coin the gold ducat, and the quadruple ducat; but they have recently discontinued the souverain, and introduced the four-florin or ten-franc piece, corresponding to the same coin issued in France and some other countries.

The fourfold ducat (vierfache ducaten), or quadruple, is a beautiful and remarkable coin, and I wish to notice it particularly, because it fulfills certain conditions which have been heretofore spoken of, by which coins can be protected from the most dangerous kind of tampering or fraud. It has a larger diameter than our double eagle, and is of finer metal, and yet has less than half the value of that coin. Of course it is proportionally thin. But this tenuity entirely

sets at naught the cunning villainy of sawing out the interior, and inserting a disk of inferior metal, by which a few of our coins have been turned into frauds. If it be said that a thin coin cannot well bring up the devices in a coining-press, these perfectly struck pieces furnish a reply. On the other hand it must be allowed that there are advantages in having a good body for the coin, and it is not intended to argue the question, but merely to present the point in passing.

The last annual statement of Autrian coinage shows considerable activity, though not what we might expect from a rich and populous empire. This falling off appears to be true, at the present time, of all the Mints in Europe, except those of London and Berlin. When Austrian rule extended over a part of Italy there were five Mints, in the whole realm; now there are three, in Austria, Hungary, and Transylvania. The coins struck in Hungary, though similar in denominations and value to those of Austria, bear the language of the Magyars.

The new gold pieces, one marked eight florins, the other four florins, the latter alone having been struck so far, are intended as an offering to the scheme of international currency, being concurrent with the gold coins of France, Belgium, Italy, and Sweden. It will serve a commercial, but hardly a domestic use in Austria, since it is not strictly on a par with four silver florins, but is to be rated by agreement of parties. The ducat series, also, is mainly for foreign trade.

It is surprising that Austria, and other German powers, still keep up the system of making billon coins; base mixtures of silver and copper, which look very well with their whitened surface when they first leave the Mint, but soon acquire a mongrel hue, by no means so agreeable as mere copper. By far the largest part of Mint work in Austria, in 1870, was upon these pieces of twenty and ten kreutzers. There is a very large profit on them, as compared with the whole

florin piece. The latter is coined at the rate of ninety florins to one kilogram of fine silver. The base pieces are at the rate of one hundred and fifty florins to the kilogram. This new proportion was introduced in 1868.

It is a curious fact that the thaler, or dollar of the Empress Maria Theresa, originally bearing the date 1780, has always been a favorite at the eastern ports of the Mediterranean, and for that reason has continued to be coined for that trade ever since. We have a fine specimen coined in 1871, but dated 1780.

It is worth while to notice for its bearing on an interesting controversy in mint legislation, in which strong minds have taken opposing sides, that in 1868 there was a coinage of some millions of this "Levant thaler," mainly to supply the needs of the English army going to the Abyssinian war; not indeed to be spent in that far country but at places along the road. Now if it were the law in Austria to coin without charge it would be an exhibition of liberality hard to account for, to help the British Government in that way. and not quite fair towards the opposite party in Africa. we would be doing the same thing by making silver dollars to pass in China and India, and dimes for West Indies and South America, and gold coin for any foreign use, without deducting something for the manufacture. England is doing this, in sending her gold coin abroad simply as so much bullion, paying the cost of coinage out of her treasury. whereby she has indeed the honor of seeing her sovereign's image and superscription in all lands, and of making a universal commercial currency. Still it is desirable and just to promote the coinage of gold and silver by making the charge as light as possible.

GERMANY.

The new gold coins of the German Empire are the pieces of twenty marks and ten marks, at the rate of 125.55 pieces of ten marks to be coined out of one mint pound (half kilo-

gram) of gold, nine-tenths fine, the larger piece in proportion. This makes the piece of twenty marks to weigh 7.965 grammes, or 122.92 grains troy; and its value \$4.76.2. (Ten marks \$2.38.1.) This does not harmonize with any system, English, French, Austrian or American, and seems to be a declaration against international standards.

A very large issue of this money has commenced, the material for which is in a great degree derived from the melting down of coins which lately bore the head of Napoleon. A change in the balance of trade, or the influx of Germans, may bring this coin to us in quantities. At present we must be limited to specimens.

It may seem a small matter, and yet it is significant, that this new money displays the effigy of the emperor without the wreath of laurel on the brow. It was there recently, while he was King of Prussia. But the change of state seems to have brought with it an advance in popular ideas. Monarchs are not so far above their subjects as formerly. Indeed, it is stated that the new coining-die was engraved with this ancient mark of distinction on the one hand, and subjection on the other; but the emperor forbid its use, and insisted on appearing without crown or laurel.

It is plainly the intention that both gold and silver shall be legal tenders in all payments. Yet the two do not fit neatly together. The piece of ten marks is to be equal to 3½ silver thalers, or 5 5-6 florins of South Germany, or 8 marks 5½ schillings of Hamburg. That rate makes the Prussian thaler equal to 71.46 cents (gold) of our money, which is just about what it would be worth in gold in the bullion market of London.

The proposed new coinage charges on gold, when reduced to intelligible terms, are about 2-7 of one per cent. for twenty mark pieces, and 3-7 for ten mark pieces. Of the lesser German states, Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Baden, Hanover, and others, we have recent specimens in silver and

copper. They are chiefly interesting for two reasons: That this is the last of them, on account of being merged in the new Empire; and that they are such perfect specimens of the Minting art. In this latter respect they must claim the victory over the coins of much larger countries. Perhaps their Mints have so little to do that they can afford to do it as if a prize awaited them. However, the German States, and some of the Italian, have long held this superiority.

THE DOLLAR SIGN.

HE dollar sign (\$) was in use long before there was any Federal coinage to be represented. All these old characters grew into use so gradually that their exact origin is often disputed, and

frequently lost even beyond the reach of long-armed tradi-The origin of the dollar mark is disputed. writers claim that the \$came from the old Spanish pillar dollar, which bore on its reverse the two "Pillars of Hercules." the ancient name of the opposite promontories at the Straits of Gibraltar. The parallel lines in it thus stand | stand, according to this explanation, for the two pillars, and they are bound together thus \$ with a scroll. More modern writers claim that as the Spanish dollar was a piece of 8 reals. "8 R" being once stamped on it, and it was then called "a piece of eight," that the figure 8 with a line drawn through it. as characters were generally formed, produced the sign of the dollar. It was not called a dollar, but a "piece of eight." The name itself was born in Germany and from the fact that the first piece of this character was coined in the Valley of St. Joachim, in Bohemia, in the year 1518, it was called Joachim's Thaler, the last half of the word being pronounced (and often written) daller. The character \mathcal{L} is the first letter of the latin word Librae, with a line across for the pound sterling, and the letters lb., with a line across it, represent the same word as applied to a pound weight.

THE CLEMENTINA MEDAL.

BY WILLIAM BLACKBURN.



HIS Medal was struck in Italy for the first Pretender in 1719, the head (obverse) is that of his wife Clementina, daughter of John Sobieski, King of Poland. Although struck for the first

Pretender, none are known to have been distributed by him, but those which can be traced were given by his son, Charles Edward, and the Cardinal of York to the faithful adherents of the Prince. There are only six or eight known to exist, the one now described was given by the Cardinal of York, to the father of the present owner, Dr. Charles A. Campbell, the representative of the Campbells of Lochdochart, (a branch of the house of Breadalbane.)

The Doctor's father was only 16 years of age, when he fought at Culloden in the cause of the house of Stuart, and the medal was given as a reward for his services to the Cardinal's brother, Charles Edward.

The Antiquarian Society of Scotland, do not possess one, and offered the Doctor a large sum if he would leave it with them on exhibition for one year. On one occasion it barely escaped being melted with a lot of family silver plate.

Obverse,—Head of Clementina. Legend,—"Clementina M. Britan. Fr. et. Hib. Regina." Reverse,—Female figure riding in a war chariot drawn by two horses, in back ground public buildings, a ship, gardens, and a rising sun, with sunburst. Legend,—"Fortunam Causamque Sequor." In Exergue,—"Deceptis Custodibus. MDCCXIX."

[We may add that we have had the pleasure of examining this medal, and declare the workmanship to be exquisite, Eds. Can. Antiq.]

⁻⁻ Algebra introduced into Europe by the Saracens 1412.

⁻ Post offices first established in Europe, in France, 1474



BURNING OF THE URSULINE CONVENT, QUEBEC, 1650.

BY H. H. MILES, LL.D,D.C.L.



N event in which the whole colony felt the deepest concern, occurred in the night of December 30, 1650, was the burning of the Ursuline Convent. Full accounts of it are given in the History of

the Ursulines of Quebec and also in the Jesuit Relations. Although it began after all had retired to rest, and, by its suddeness and violence, compelled the inmates to escape as they best could, in their night-clothes, yet no lives were lost. The weather at the time was intensely cold, and the ground covered with snow. The Ursulines lost all they had. They were afterwards encouraged to rebuild, instead of returning to France. The other religious bodies, as well as M. d'Aillebout, assisted them in doing so with loans of money, and their credit. The Governor himself and Madame d'Aillebout furnished the design or plans; and the former, as temporal father of the community, did all he could towards the restoration of their useful establishment.

One of the most touching incidents connected with the disaster of the Ursulines occurred a short time after the fire, when they were temporarily lodged in the Hotel Dieu, where the Hospitalieres received them with the utmost kindness and charity. Proofs of sympathy had reached them from every quarter—all classes of the French and the Indians combining to manifest the concern so universally entertained. But the poor Hurons, who then occupied at least 400 cabins in the neighbourhood of the hospital, excelled others in this respect. They held a council, and finding that their utmost wealth consisted in the possession of two fercelain collars, each composed of 1200 grains or rings, they resolved to go in a body to the Hotel Dieu, and offer these as a present, along with their condolences. Their chief, Taieronk, made

an oration, commencing: "You behold in us poor creatures the relics of a flourishing nation now no more. In our Huron country, we have been devoured and gnawed to the very bones by war and famine; nor could these carcases of ours stand upright but for the support we have derived from you. You have learned from others, now you see with your own eyes, tht extremity of misery to which we have been reduced. Look well at us, and judge if in our own case we have not much to lament, and to cause us, without ceasing, to shed torrents of tears. But, alas! this deplorable accident which has befallen you is a renewal of our afflictions. see that beautiful habitation burnt.-to see that house of charity reduced to cinders,-to see the flames raging there without respect to your sacred persons—this reminds us of that universal conflagration which destroyed our dwellings our villages, and our whole country! Must fire, then, follow us thus everywhere? But courage, sacred beings! our first present of 1200 grains of porcelain is to confirm your resolution to continue your affection and heavenly charity towards us poor savages, and to attach your feet to the soil of this country, so that no regard for your own friends and native land will be strong enough to tear you away. Our second present is to designate the laying anew of the foundations of an edifice which shall again be a house of God and of prayers, and in which you can again hold your classes for the instruction of our little Huron girls."

The fire is known as the "first fire of the house of the Ursuline of Quebec," for the second edifice, erected on the same foundations as the former one, was subsequently burnt down in the year 1672.

⁻⁻ Stops and pauses first used in literature, 1520.

⁻ Greek language first introduced into England by Gracyn, 1491.

⁻ Maps and charts first brought to England, 1489.

THE MOABITE STONE.

(From " Our Work in Palatine.")



HE discovery of this memorable stone and the circumstances which led to its destruction are so well known that we may be content to pass over the history in a few words only. It was

found at Dhiban (Aug. 19, 1868) by the Rev. F. A. Klein, a French clergyman employed by the English mission. a most extraordinary and most unfortunate error of judgment, M. Klein communicated his discovery neither to his learned and zealous countryman, M. Clermont Ganneau, nor to his English employers of the mission, nor to Captain Warren, the English explorer; but he went secretly to Dr. Petermann, the Prussian Consul. Here was the grand mistake of the whole business. Either Captain Warren or M. Clermont Ganneau could have got up the stone, whole and uninjured, for a few Napoleons, because the Arabs were wholly unacquainted with its value. One or two attempts were secretly made by Dr. Petermann to get the stone by means of native agents. They failed, and doubly failed, because they taught the Arabs the value of the stone.* Then an appeal was made to the Turkish Government-the most fatal mistake of all; for the stone was in the possession of the Beni Humaydah (not the Beni Hamidah, as stated by error in the article on the Moabite Stone in the "Recovery of Jerusalem"), the wildest of the wild tribes to the east of Jordan. They were smarting, too, at the time from the effects of the "Belka Expedition," led by Rashid Pasha in person; and says Captain Burton, "knowing what a dragonnade meant, they were in paroxysms of terror at the idea of another raid."

The secret oozed out, and was perfectly well known to Captain Warren, the Rev. Dr. Barclay, and M. Clermont

^{*} The list of blunders perpetrated during the first attempts to get up the stone may be read in Burton and D ake's "Unexplored Syria," vol i., p. 335, et seq.

Ganneau. It was decided by Captain Warren that it would be best at this point to leave the matter in the hands of Dr. Petermann. Observe that any interference on his part would have probably tended to complicate matters, and might have led to a still earlier destruction of the monumers. In the spring of 1863, Captain Warren, with his party, went to the Libanus. Dr. Petermann, too, left Jerusalem for Berlin, after personally assuring M. Ganneau that the whole affair had fallen through. Captain Warren away, and the Prussians having desisted from their endeavours, the coast was clear for M. Clermont Ganneau.

M. Ganneau got a squeeze of the whole—in rags, it is true, but still a squeeze. Then came the catastrophe. The wild Arabs, terrified at the prospect of another raid, angry at the probable loss of a stone which possessed supernatural powers in their eyes, lit a fire under the priceless relic, threw cold water on it when it was red-hot, and so smashed it into pieces. Captain Warren obtained squeezes of the two larger fragments; and then the work of decipherment, history, controversy, and recrimination began. After all that has been said as to its history, one thing is clear; the blame of its destruction rests neither with Captain Warren nor with M. Clermont Ganneau. Had M. Klein gone openly in the first instance to the former, there is not the slightest doubt that this most invaluable monument would be now lying, intact and entire, in the British Museum, in the Louvre, or in Berlin. No matter where, provided only it had been saved.

For it is a monument which yields in importance to none yet found. It is a narrative by a Moabite king of his battles and conquests. It is like another page added to the Bible. It takes us back to the time of King Omri and King Ahab; and it takes nearer to the origin of our own alphabet than any other document yet discovered. In every way it was again. It has a value historical, a value geographical, a value linguistic, a value theological, a value paleographic. It has this

value, mutilated as it is. It would be priceless indeed, could we recover enough of the upper surface to read it without doubt or hesitation. The number of letters on the monument was a little over 1,000. The number preserved is 669. Subjoined is the translation given by M. Clermont Ganneau, June, 1870:—

"I am Mesa, son of Chamosgad, King of Moab, the Dibonite. | My father reigned thirty years, and I have reigned after my father. | And I have built this sanctuary for Chamos in Qarha [sanctuary of salvation], for he has saved me from all aggressors and has made me look upon all my enemies with contempt. |

"Omri was King of Israel, and oppressed Moab during many days, and Chamos was irritated at his aggressions. | And his son succeeded him, and he said, he also, 'I will oppress Moab,' | In my days I said 'I will . . . him and I will visit him and his house.' | And Israel was ruined, ruined for ever. Omri gained possession of the land of Medeba. | And he dwelt there . . . [Ahab] his son lived forty years, and Chamos made him [perish] in my time. |

"Then I built Baal Meon and constructed Qiriathaim.

"And the men of Gad dwelt in the country of [Ataro]th from ancient times, and the King of Israel had built the city of Ataroth. I attacked the city and I took it,—and I killed all the people of the city, as a spectacle to Chamos and to Moab, | and I carried away from there the . . . and I dragged it to the ground before the face of Chamos at Qerioth, | and I brought there the men of Saron (or of Chofen) and the men of Maharouth (?).

"And Chamos said to me, 'Go; take Nebah from Israel.' I went by night, and I fought against the city from the dawn to midday, | and I took it: and I killed all, seven thousand [men, and I carried away with me] the women and the young girls; for to Astar Chamos belongs the consecration of women; | and I brought from there the vessels of

Jehovah, and I dragged them on the ground before the face of Chamos.

"And the King of Israel had built Yahas, and resided there during his war with me. | And Chamos drove him from before my face: I took from Moab two hundred men in all; I made them go up to Yahas, and I took it to annex it to Dibon. |

"It is I who have built Qarha, the Wall of the Forests and the Wall of the Hill. | I have built its gates, and I have built its towers. | I have built the palace of the king, and have constructed the prisons of the . . . in the midst of the city. |

"And there were no wells in the interior of the city in Qarha: and I said to all the people, 'Make you every man a well in his house,' | and I dug cisterns for Qarha for . . . of Israel. |

"It is I who have built Aroer, and made the road of Arnon. |

"It is I who have built Beth Bamoth, which was destroyed. It is I who have built Bosor (which is powerful)... Dibon of the military chiefs, for all Dibon was submissive. And I have filled... with the cities which I have added to the land (of Meab).

"And it is I who have built. Beth Diblathain, and Beth Baal Meon, and I have raised there the . . . the land. | And Horonaim he resided there with . . . | And Chamos said to me, 'Go down and fight against Horonaim.' | . . . Chamos, in my day . . . the year"

For the general public, it will be sufficient to mention that, after 3,000 years, there has come to light a monument which is contemporary with King Ahab, and refers to events which are recorded in the book of Chronicles. After this, let no one doubt the utility of Palestine research, or the possibility of finding further illustrations of the Bible in contemporary monuments.

The date of the stone is probably about 900 B.C. It was engraved, according to the opinion of the Count de Vogué, in the second year of the reign of Ahaz, King of Israel. It is older than Homer, older than the famous inscription of Ashmunazar; and is in all likelihood written in the same characters as those used by David in the Psalms, and by Solomon in his correspondence with Hiram, King of Tyre.*

From every point of view the stone is of the deepest importance and interest, Would that others like it could be discovered.

NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.



STATED Meeting of the Society was held in the Library of the Natural History Society on the evening of Wednesday, June 18th. After routine business, the President exhibited six rare

Canadian Medals, including the "Canada Subdued," and the "Literary and Historical Society, Quebec;" the "Louisbourg Taken," reverse "O Fair Britannia Hail," and also a very rare Bank of Montreal Penny "Side View 1838."

Mr. G. E. Harte, Secretary, also exhibited 11 very beautiful Canadian Medals, all in exceedingly fine condition.

Mr. Blackburn presented a photograph of a very rare and beautiful Silver Medal, struck in 1719 for the first Pretender.+

The President read a letter from Her Majesty's Treasury with reference to the Society obtaining proof specimens of coins struck at the Royal Mint during the past year.

The first part of "Numismata Cromwelliana" was received, and elicited general approbation.

The Society's meetings were adjourned during the Summer months.

[&]quot; Unexplored Syria," vol. 1., p. 318.

[†] For account of this Medal see page 38.

EDITORIAL.



E have great pleasure in presenting this, the first number of Volume II. of *The Antiquarian*. Although the publication of this magazine entails much labor upon the editing committee and

expense to the Society under whose auspices it is published, yet it is felt that with the kind co-operation of friends interested in the subjects to which it is devoted, it may yet become a valuable repository of interesting incident, and serve to perpetuate many minor, but none the less important, items relating to numismatic and historic study.

— As promised in our last number, the volume for the present year will be more copiously illustrated, and at least one copper-plate or steel engraving will appear with each number. We trust our friends will rally to our support, and that our list of subscribers may be largely increased.

REVIEWS.



HE Banker's Almanac for 1873, issued at the office of *The Banker's Magazine*, New York, contains facsimilies of thirty-three new coins of the past two years, including those of Japan 9; England

2; Canada 1; France 4; Germany 2; Russia 1; Spain 2; Sweden 1; Denmark 1; Austria 3; Italy 2; Mexico 1; Portugal 2; Netherlands 1; Wurtemburg 1.

These facsimiles, are interesting as a matter of history and Numismatics; and will be followed next January by those of 1873, including the new trade dollar of the United States. The following is a facsimile of the new silver coin of Japan, called the *yen*, which approaches, in size and value, the American dollar.





Weight, 866. Fineness, 900. Value, \$1.00.8.

The Sun and the Dragon are conspicious emblems in the Japanese coins. The Sun represents Japan, and the Dragon represents the Imperial power. The legends on all the coins are "The Great Sun Rising." and "Third Year of Peace and Enlightenment." Then follows the names and value of each coin,

The following engraving represents the new coin (Five Pesctas) of the Republic of Spain.





Weight, .800. Fineness, 900. Value, \$0.98.

There are valuable details contained in the Banker's Almanac, among which are a list of all the National and State Banks in operation to date, 2,500 in number: the location, names of officers, capital, and New York correspondent of each.

A list of the Private Bankers in the United States and Canada; 2,100 in number.

A list of Savings Banks in New England, New York, Maryland and New Jersey, 500 in number, and Banks of Canada.

An alphabetical list of 2,500 Cashiers and Assistant Cashiers, in the United States.

List of Stock Brokers in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore.

The fluctuations in prices of Government, State and City Bonds; of Cotton, Sugar, Corn, etc. The daily premium on Gold for a series of years. The production of Gold and Silver throughout the world, in the last twenty years.

For the information of those interested in banking &c., the Banker's Magazine for June contains the new Coinage Act of 1873—Proceedings of N.Y. Chamber of Commerce—Redemption of Base Coins—Numismatic Society—Scandinavian Coinage—Rare old Coins—Early Coins of America. Also a list of forty-eight Marine, Fire, and Life Insurance Companies in Canada, an article on Coinage at Home and Abroad, with a Review of the Coinage of all Countries.

^{— &}quot;Numismata Cromwelliana." The Medallic History of Oliver Cromwell, by Henry W. Henfrey, Author of "A Guide to English Coins." Price in six parts 3s.6d. each. We have just received the first part of this really valuable contribution to Numismatic literature. Judging from this precursor, the work promises to be an exhaustive one, on a most interesting subject. We scarcely know which most to admire, the type, the autotype illustration, or above all, the pains-taking care which the author has brought to bear upon his work. When complete, this book of Mr. Henfrey's will stand as a monument to the memory of "Cromwell, our chief of men."

Truly "Peace liath her victories, no less renowned than war," and these are of them.