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OLD LANDMARKS ON THE RICHELIEU.

BY JOHN LESPERANCE.



THIS beautiful and historic river, was discovered by Champlain. The founder of Quebec, alarmed at the continual danger of extermination to which his infant colony was exposed from the inruptions of the Iroquois, who were furnished with fire arms by the Dutch of New York, resolved on pursuing them into their own country and there bringing them to a decisive battle. In the spring of 1609, accompanied by a party of Hurons and Algonquins, he started for the dreaded land of the Mohawks. At the mouth of the Richelieu river, he stopped to take in a supply of fish and game and consult on a plan of campaign, then ascended it for a distance of forty miles, without meeting with any obstacle. The deep primeval forest hung over him from either bank. He encountered no living thing, except the wild birds on the branches and the stag drinking on the water's edge. Suddenly, in his peaceful advance, he heard the roar of waters tumbling over and among rocks and observed long streaks of foam sweeping past his birch canoe. It was the rapids of Chambly. His party landed, and the In-

dians made a *portage*, up to a point where the river was again navigable. The expedition then continued its march without incident, till one lovely summer morning, its canoes shot into the clear waters of Lake Champlain. After traversing this fine sheet of water, throughout its whole length, discovering Lake St. Sacrament, now called Lake George and giving battle to the Mohawks, at the promontory of Carillon or Ticonderoga, the great traveller returned to Quebec, by the same route through which he had gone.

With the progress of the Colony, the valley of the Richelieu was rapidly settled and soon became the garden of Lower Canada. Many of the best families among the Colonists, chose it as their residence. The St. Ours, the Duchesnays, the Deschambeaults, the Rouvilles and others obtained vast grants of land on its banks, thus founding the Seigniories which still bear their names.

The Richelieu is 80 miles in length, and bridged at five places. There are twelve miles of canal from St. Johns to Chambly. There is also a dam at St. Ours.

Its original name was Iroquois River and its present title is derived from an old fort built on the present site of Sorel, by M. de Montmagny. It was meet that while Lake Champlain preserves the memory of its discoverer, the beautiful river which flows from it, should bear the name of the great French Cardinal who did so much for the families settled on its banks.

I.—ISLE-AUX-NOIX.

The first point of interest on the Richelieu is Isle-aux-Noix. A low-lying island, commanding the mouth of Lake Champlain, and situate on the frontier between the United States and Canada, it is admirably well chosen as a site for fortified works. Its name is derived from the profusion of hazel bushes and walnut woods, that stood there when the French first occupied and fortified it. This was in 1759, during their first war with the British Colonies of New England and New

York. In 1763, when Canada passed definitively into the hands of the British, the fortifications of Isle-aux-Noix fell into decay and the island was lost sight of till the outbreak of the American Revolution. In 1775, the Americans planned a campaign against Canada and made Isle-aux-Noix, one of their bases. From this post Montgomery issued his famous proclamation to the French Canadians, declaring that he came to wage war not on them or their religion, but solely on the British. In the Autumn of 1776, the island was evacuated by Benedict Arnold and his army, who were pursued by Burgoyne.

In 1781, Isle-aux-Noix became the scene of diplomatic negotiations. The people of Vermont, becoming dissatisfied with Congress, in consequence of what they regarded as an unjust dismemberment of their state in favor of New Hampshire and New York, dispatched commissioners to the British authorities on the frontier, ostensibly for exchange of prisoners, but in reality to treat with them about a return to British allegiance. The place of meeting was Isle-aux-Noix. The conference led to no result, except that it probably induced Congress to come to terms with Vermont.

After the American Revolution, the works at Isle-aux-Noix were once more allowed to fall to ruins. They remained in that condition for nearly thirty years, but in 1813, when England and the United States were again at war, regular fortifications were set up and have been retained ever since. They were strengthened during the excitement of the Trent affair and are, at the present time, in a high state of efficiency. There is no question that the point is a strong one for defensive operations.

II.—ST. JOHNS.

The situation of this Town, at the head of navigation in the direction of Lake Champlain, pointed it out to the early French engineers as a proper place for the erection of

defensive works. Accordingly, so far back at 1758, Montcalm built fortifications there. The remains of these ancient works are still visible, a little in the rear of the present barracks and adjoining the railway line to Rouses Point.

In the autumn of 1775, St. Johns offered the first serious resistance to the American forces dispatched by congress to invade Canada. Montgomery appeared before the Fort and had a preliminary skirmish with the garrison. This action took place upon the present site of the Town of St. Johns, which at that time was probably uninhabited. The ground was damp and marshy and so thickly planted with forest trees that the American Commander, a few days later, shifted his position to the North west of the fort on a higher plateau, in the neighbourhood of the ridge which leads to Grand Bernier. Here he threw up regular breast works and began siege operations. He erected a powerful battery within 700 feet of Fort St. Johns, and also a strong block house, on the Iberville side of the river, bearing direct on the works and mounted with one gun and two mortars. The ruins of Montgomery's blockhouse, were visible up to a few years ago and their site is still easily traced. The St. Johns garrison surrendered, November 1st, 1775, after a six weeks siege. The Americans retained it just six months, till May 1776.

All through the summer of 1776, from June to October, the banks of the quiet river at Iberville and St. Johns, resounded with the hammer and anvil. Seven hundred seamen from the war vessels at anchor under the Cliffs of Quebec, had been chosen to man the Fleet that was building there. Among the officers was Edward Pellew, afterward Lord Exmouth, who rose to the highest rank among British Admirals. Early in October, one ship, two schooners, a raft, a galley and 24 gun boats sailed from under the guns of Fort St. Johns, bound for Lake Champlain. There they did much execution against the American Fleet, and, after a successful campaign, returned to winter quarters at St. Johns.

In the summer of 1777, St. Johns was again the scene of warlike preparation. But this time it was a land force which concentrated there. A body of seven thousand men of all arms was collected under Burgoyne. Numerous transports were built and immense supplies of stores and ammunition brought together. On the 1st June, this imposing army left St. Johns for Lake Champlain, driving everything before it. Its fate is well known. For three months it was the terror of the Americans, but it met with a first check at Stillwater, Sept. 19th, and was finally captured at Saratoga, October 17th, 1777.

After this eventful year, nothing more is heard of Fort St. Johns for upwards of a quarter of a century. It still retained its garrison, more or less supplied, till the war of 1812, when it was again placed on its former footing.

As a military position, St. Johns enjoys special advantages. It is the key of the immense plateau leading up to Montreal. In the chain of Forts, recently proposed by Col. MacDougall, to guard the approaches to the metropolis, it would be the strongest, because the most exposed. During the recent Fenian invasion, it was used as a depot for the advance guard of the army. The fine barracks are tenantless now, but let us hope that they will not be allowed to fall to ruins.

III.—CHAMBLY.

This picturesque Village is very ancient. It owes its name to a Frenchman called Chambly, who built a small wooden fort near the site now occupied by the barracks. As the place was at the head of the navigation of the Richelieu from the direction of the St. Lawrence, this fragile work was succeeded by a fine structure of solid masonry, destined to command the river. The old fort is dismantled now, but even as a ruin it is interesting and should not be allowed to go to utter decay. As it stands to day, it is one of the most important relics of Canadian history.

In 1775, while the Americans were besieging the fort at St. Johns, Montgomery sent a strong detachment under Colonel Bedell to attempt the capture of Chambly. Guy Carleton—the Governor of Canada—by some unaccountable oversight, had left that fort with only a slim garrison. Artillery was floated down the river from St. Johns on boats, as far as the head of the rapids, then mounted on wheels and drawn up in face of the works. The feeble garrison, finding itself thus suddenly enveloped, did not make a vigorous resistance and soon surrendered. It is worthy of remark, that among the spoils, were the colors of the seventh regiment of the line, so celebrated in British annals. These were sent to Congress as trophies and are said to have been the first received by that body during the Revolutionary contest. Near the old fort are still seen the remains of the earthworks and the battery mounds, which Bedell and his Green Mountain Boys erected. It is a noteworthy fact that native Canadians aided the Americans in the capture of Chambly. They piloted the artillery down the Richelieu and likewise assisted in the siege.

Chambly has ever since been retained as one of the regular garrisons of the country. It offers great advantages as a military station and its present barracks possess superior accommodations. It was the chosen ground for the rifle practice of the regular army.

IV.—ST. CHARLES, ST. DENIS AND SOREL.

St. Charles is a pretty village, on the right bank of the Richelieu, some twenty-five miles above its mouth. It was the scene of an important engagement during the rebellion of 1837. The *Patriots* had rendezvoused and entrenched themselves on a piece of land belonging to a certain Lussier and to Mr. Debartzsch, the seignior. The works consisted of an oblong square, fenced in with felled trees covered with earth. The river lay on one wing, a wooded hillock on the other, and

the little garrison had a strong *point d'appui* in Debartzsch's house and barn. The men, numbering seven hundred, were commanded by Mr. T. S. Brown. Colonel Wetherall, who had been despatched from Chambly with a battalion, appeared before this fort, November 25th, 1837, and prepared at once to assault it. The key of the position was the wooded hillock just mentioned. If Brown had defended that with sharpshooters and artillery, he would have made a strong resistance, but when the first shot from Wetherall's ordnance shrieked through the air and struck the belfry of St. Charles, church, he is said to have lost control over his men. Wetherall, took possession of the eminence, got his two guns into full play upon the insurgents and created havoc among them. His fire however, was returned with spirit for a whole hour. At length the regulars received orders to point bayonets and they carried the works at one charge. The camp was destroyed and so was Debartzsch's barn, but his house was spared. That old seignorial mansion still stands. It was there also that a preliminary meeting took place between Papineau, Nelson, Viger and others, at which the details of a provisional government were agreed upon, in case of the success of the military uprising which was then contemplated.

St. Denis is five miles below St. Charles. In 1837, it served as the head quarters of the insurgents, owing principally to the fact that it was the residence of Dr. Wolfred Nelson, their principal leader and, by all odds, the most remarkable man in the whole movement. On November 23, 1837, Colonel Gore, coming up from Sorrel, with a column of three hundred regulars, a few cavalry and a field piece, attacked a large stone house on the river bank where the insurgents were barricaded. This house, known as that of Madame St. Germain, is still standing, a monument of the battle. After a sharp engagement, the insurgents abandoned that position and boldly met the regulars in the field. A brisk conflict then ensued in which Gore was so

worsted that he was obliged to sound the retreat, leaving his field piece, part of his amunition and many of his wounded in the hands of the enemy. Under these circumstances, the victory was so important that if Brown, at St. Charles, had had the fortune of Nelson, the probabilities are that the rebellion would have proved a success all over the country. As it was, the defeat at St. Charles neutralized the advantages won at St. Denis, broke up the insurgent organization, and scattered the leaders.

Sorel, situate at the mouth of the Richelieu, derives its name from a French engineer who built a fort there during the Indian wars. It is sometimes also called William Henry, in honor of the English Prince of that name who visited the country after the conquest.

Champlain was the first white man who set foot on its present site. In 1610, a battle took place there or rather in an island just opposite. Champlain, at the head of a party of Montagnais, defeated a strong force of Iroquois, after a furious combat in which the founder of Quebec was wounded by an arrow. In 1642, M. de Montmagny, at that time Governor of New France, appreciating the importance of Sorel, as a barrier against the Iroquois of New York, built a fort there. In 1645, Fort Richelieu, as it was then called, was the scene of a bloody encounter between the Algonquins and the Iroquois. A party of the former came up from Three Rivers, and in the dead of night attacked a band of the latter who were in wait around the fort. Victory declared in favor of the Algonquins. Fort Richelieu was kept garrisoned during the whole time of the French occupation of the country, but after the Conquest by the English, it was abandoned.

— Newfoundland—so called from being the first land
“found” in the New World by Sir John Cabot.

THE ANTIQUARY.

BY NUMA.



MOST unaccountably the Alchemist, the Astrologer, and the Antiquary have been classed together and have each had his favorite study ridiculed by those who in many instances really knew little or nothing about what they derided. But while Alchemy has been pronounced a failure, and Astrology has at present very few students, Archæology is daily gaining ground, the science is becoming popular, Antiquarian Societies are being formed in various parts of the Globe, and people have discovered that Archæology has a higher aim than to determine to what ages certain antiquities may be assigned—that it is in reality a system of monumental history. Dr. Mackenzie in his life of Charles Dickens in speaking of the adventures of the Picwickians, characterises the finding of the stone with the inscription and the subsequent proceedings as “abundantly absurd.” He continues “It was nothing new to burlesque the proceedings of an Antiquarian Society, and the idea of converting Bill Stumps his mark, into something which was taken or mistaken for an antique inscription, was evidently suggested by the A.D. L.L. which Jonathan Oldbuck in the Antiquary fancied must signify Agricola Dicavit Libens Lubens, while Edie Ochiltree proved that it only indicated Archie Drum’s Lang Ladle. It is no secret that Scott got his idea from an amusing incident recorded in the apochryphal Autobiography of Madame de Barry. That an Antiquarian Society was formed in England three hundred years ago will be proved beyond cavil by the following quotation from “Archæologia,” “Perhaps the very name of Antiquary was used first in England, if it be true that Henry the VIII. conferred it in an especial manner on Leland, who eminently deserved it. Be this as

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it may, there was a Society of Antiquaries so early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Its foundation may be fixt to the 14th year of her reign (1582) and the honour of it is entirely due to that munificent patron of letters and learned men, Archbishop Parker. Webster's Dictionary thus defines the word Antiquary: "one who studies into the history of ancient things, as statues, coins, medals, paintings, inscriptions, books and manuscripts, or searches for them, and explains their origin and purport." Here we have in brief a sketch of the Antiquary's vast domain through which he plods with untiring steps, collecting, descyphering and arranging for the benefit of his fellow men, historical facts, which were it not for his unceasing application, perseverance and energy, would in all probability be lost, facts that in many instances supply the missing links in the long chain of a nation's history. Such men as Layard, Wilkinson and Champolion, are of the class to which I refer, and merit the rank of public benefactors.

The description of Jonathan Oldbuck's "Sanctum Sanctorum," in "The Antiquary" comes up to the idea of the abode of one devoted to the science of Archæology, but Sir Walter Scott's own collection of curiosities at Abbotsford, consisting of ancient armour, sculpture, statuary, painting, architectural relics, ornaments and decorations, trophies of war and peace, quaint Antiques, &c., prove conclusively that he was an indefatigable collector of the reliques of ancient times, and an enthusiastic Antiquarian, diving deep into the mysteries of the science he so ably burlesqued.

The satisfaction evinced by an Antiquary at obtaining an old coin or other object of ancient art is a matter of surprise to one who does not take an interest in the science, and Mr. Oldbuck paid Mr. Lovel a very great compliment when he said he had rather Mr. Lovel had taken his copper Otho, than that he had stolen himself away without giving Mr. Oldbuck the pleasure of seeing him again; a copper coin of the Roman Emperor Otho, being very valuable.

(To be Continued.)

\$10.

Provisional Government of Upper Canada, No.

329

King's Island, Upper Canada, December 27, 1837. Law member
after date, the Provisional Government of Upper Canada, pursuant to law
to James Harvey Price Esquire, et alia, at the City
Hall, Toronto, Ten Dollars, for value received.

Entered by the Secretary.

J. Parson

Examined by the Comptroller.

D. David Gibson

N. L. MacKenzie

Chairman pro. tem. Ex. Com.



PAPER MONEY OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF UPPER CANADA, 1837.



Of the many deeply interesting events in Canadian History, that which has attracted greatest attention is beyond doubt the insurrection of 1837-38. A large number of those who were prominent in the movement, have passed away. The last days of the leaders in the two Canadas, were spent in circumstances greatly differing from each other.

Wm. Lyon McKenzie, the head of the Upper Canada party, died on the 28th of August, 1861, broken hearted with disappointment principally because he no longer knew where to find the means of existence, while his proud spirit forbade him to beg. Louis Joseph Papineau, the eloquent leader of the Lower Canada *Patriots*, after a long and eventful public career, passed away, surrounded by all that could be desired, and his remains found their final resting place (on the 24th Sept., 1871,) at Monte Bello, his own baronial seat, on the green banks of the Ottawa.

It is not our intention to review the causes which led to the rebellion, under the leadership of these two men, suffice it to say that the ill feeling which had existed for several years were greatly increased by the fiery appeals continually being made through the medium of public meetings, and the press. Prominent among the newspapers which aided the disaffected party, was the *Montreal Vindicator*, edited by Dr. O'Callaghan and *The Constitution*, edited and published by W. L. McKenzie. The latter paper was first issued on the 4th July, 1837, and on the succeeding day appeared the following article.

"Will the Canadians declare their independence and shoulder their muskets?" After referring to meetings that had been held at L'Islet and Bellechasse, he proceeded, in the suggestive style, to say: "Two or three thousand Canadians,

meeting within twenty-five miles of the fortress of Quebec, in defiance of the proclamation, with muskets on their shoulders and the Speaker of the House of Commons at their head, to pass resolutions declaratory of their abhorrence of British Colonial tyranny, and their determination to resist and throw it off, is a sign not easily misunderstood." He then proceeded with the question: "Can the Canadians conquer?" and gave several reasons for answering it in the affirmative. He, however, excepted the fortress of Quebec. He argued that they would conquer every thing but this; because they were united by the bond of a common language, a common religion, and a common origin. They had for twenty years steadily opposed the oligarchical system imposed upon them. Their leaders were bold and resolute, cool and calculating; full of fire and energy. As marksmen, they were more than a match for British soldiers. Their organization was better than Lord Gosford had any conception of. They had a large number of experienced officers among them, and were constantly receiving from France military men who had won laurels at the feet of Napoleon. The garrison of Quebec would rather desert than fight against their fellow subjects. Thousands of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen, in the United States, would hasten to rally around the standard of the Canadians; especially if they were offered three or four hundred acres of Clergy Reserves each. The Colonial Governors had no adequate means of resistance; and no House of Commons would sanction the spending of fifty or sixty millions to put down the rebellion.

Such were the opinions deliberately written and published by Mr. McKenzie, on the 5th of July, 1837.

The machinery of agitation, of which the motive power was in Toronto, was to have four several centres of action outside the city. At the meeting held on the 28th of July, a plan submitted by Mr. McKenzie, "for uniting, organizing and registering the Reformers of Upper Cana-

da, as a political Union," was adopted. A net work of societies was to be spread over the country ; and care was to be taken to have them composed of persons known to one another.

On the 2d August, a " Declaration of the Reformers of Toronto to their Fellow Reformers in Upper Canada," was published in *The Constitution*. This document was virtually a declaration of independence, and it was afterwards called the "Declaration of the Independence," of Upper Canada, but there is reason to doubt whether its purport was fully understood even by all who signed it.

The several engagements which took place between the insurrectionists and the loyalists, and the final and complete victory gained by the latter are now matters of history.

There is however one scene in which McKenzie took part, not so generally known. The effort made to establish himself upon Navy Island, was probably one of his most daring as well as unsuccessful undertakings.

This Island, awarded to England by the Treaty of Ghent, is situated in the Niagara River, a short distance above the world-renowned cataract. A swift current sweeps past the island on either side, on its way to the vast abyss below ; but its navigation is practicable for steamers or row boats.

On the Dec. 13, 1837, McKenzie with an American named Van Rensselaer as Commander of the *Patriot Army* landed on this island. They had been led to expect a large gathering of volunteers at Whitehaven, near Buffalo, but to their great disappointment the promised *army* of 250 men, 2 pieces of artillery and 450 stand of arms beside provisions and munitions of war, were not forthcoming and only some 24 volunteers waited to accompany them on their expedition for the *liberation* of the *enslaved* Canadian.

Still the leaders trusted in the good faith of their friends and the little band took possession of the island on the day named.

A provisional government, of which Mr. McKenzie was President, was organized on the island. A proclamation dated Navy Island, December 13, 1837, was issued by Mr. McKenzie, stating the objects which the attempted revolution was designed to secure, and promising three hundred acres of public lands to every volunteer who joined the Patriot standard. A few days after another proclamation was issued adding \$100 in silver, payable by the 1st of May, 1838, to the proffered bounty. The fulfilment of the promises held out in these proclamations must, however, be dependent upon the success of the cause in which the volunteers were to fight.

The Patriot flag with its twin stars, intended to represent the two Canadas, was hoisted; and as a government, even though it be provisional, is nothing without a great seal; this requisite was also obtained. Besides the twin stars, the great seal showed a new moon breaking through the surrounding darkness, with the words *Liberty—Equality*. The Provisional Government issued promises to pay in sums of one and ten dollars each. They are said to have been freely taken on the American side; but the amount issued cannot be ascertained.

The men were quartered in huts made of boards: and the head-quarters of the Provisional Government and the General-in-Chief differed from the rest only in being of greater dimensions.

The defences made on the island consisted of trees thrown along the lower banks, and extending into the water, where there was reason to anticipate that a landing would be attempted. A road was cut in the woods round the island, near the margin that men and cannon might be moved to any point where required. A loyalist force, at first under Col. Cameron and afterwards under Col. McNab, appeared on the Chippewa side, and a bombardment commenced. The island was scarcely out of musket range of the main land, where the British forces were stationed; and one man, on the main land, was killed from the island by a musket or a

rifle. But for all this, the fire of the loyalist cannon and mortars, kept up day after day, was almost entirely harmless ; only one man on the island being killed by it. The extent of the mischief done by the Patriots was greater, because they were not baffled by woods, on the main land, where the enemy was encountered. But the effect of the fire of the twenty-four cannon in possession of the Patriots was very small. Many of the houses on the Chippewa shore were pierced with stray balls ; but the number of persons killed was insignificant.

What gave courage to the patriots was the belief that the moment they crossed over to the main land, they would be joined by large numbers of the population anxious to revolutionize the Government.

The Patriots were finally compelled to evacuate the island on the 13th January, 1838.

It is a matter of surprise that the island, which was intended as a *point d'appui* from which to take a liberating army into Western Canada, was permitted to be occupied by insurgents, and American citizens who sympathised with them, for a period of over a month, without being assaulted by the vastly superior force on the main land, who were spending their time in an inglorious and inactive campaign.

MUTINY OF THE 7TH FUSILEERS AT QUEBEC

1793.

BY ROBERT B. MILLER.



ONE of the inexplicable events of the close of the last century, was the mutiny at Quebec of the Regiment under the command of Edward Duke of Kent. Various causes have been assumed as leading to the outbreak ; but nothing definite is known. It has long been surmised that the whole circumstances are recorded in private letters, and as these come to light, so the truth will be known. Several records of this excellent man

have lately been published, and what is there shewn of the chivalry, the unselfishness, and the sense of duty which marked him, it has been generally considered that the fault did not consist in his treatment of the men.

A volume of anonymous manuscript letters in the Dominion Library throws some light on the event ; so far as the writer knows the only explanation given. These letters are continued in one hand writing and record events extending from March the 5th, to June the 3rd, 1795, some few letters being appended without date. They are described as "Canadian Letters, Description of a Tour thro' the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada in the course of the years 1792 & 93."

The following paragraph bearing on the Mutiny, is extracted from the first letter :—

"The 7th or British Fusileers, commanded by Prince Edward, together with a body of artillery, performed garrison duty whilst I was at Quebec. The appearance of the 7th is highly military in point of figure. The mutiny which sometime after took place among them, has been attributed to various causes ; the most probable is to be traced to the manner in which the majority of the Corps were originally composed. His Royal Highness, with the natural ardor of a youthful soldier, was desirous that his Regiment should be distinguished for its figure, and in consequence applied when at Gibraltar, to some general officers to accommodate him with men who would answer that purpose, they, it is said, took occasion at the same time to get quit of a number of troublesome fellows. Such persons being brought together in one body, and at the same time distant from home, formed the desperate resolution of deserting and going to the States of America ; their plan was, however, defeated in the very moment previous to its execution. His Highness's subsequent conduct to the ringleaders of the delinquents, was such as to impress the minds of the people of Canada, with the most favorable opinion of the clemency of his temper."



FAC-SIMILE OF AN ILLUSTRATION FROM "THIRD
VOYAGE OF AMERICUS VESPUTIUS TO AMERICA."
PRINTED ABOUT 1506-9. SEE PAGE 113.

THIRD VOYAGE OF AMERICUS VESPUCCIUS TO AMERICA.



R. FREDRIK MULLER of Amsterdam, has recently published a catalogue of Books, Maps, Plates, &c., on America, on which appears a notice of a highly interesting and valuable work. The work referred to is printed in Dutch and is a translation of Vespuccius's famous letter to Laur. de Medicis, on his third American Voyage, undertaken in 1501, for the King of Portugal. The work has no date, but it is beyond doubt that it was printed about 1506-9, the time when all the separate editions of Vespuccius were published. It is one of the first productions of the famous printer *Jan van Doesborgh*, at Antwerp, whose publications, (principally Romances of Chivalry with wood cuts, &c.,) rank among the rarest of specimens of the Antwerp Printers. It contains but 16 pages of about 30 lines each. On the first leaf above the plate, the title commences as follows: "*Of the New World or landscape, newly found for the illustrious King of Portugal, by the best pilot or mariner of the World,*" below the cut the letter begins as follows: "*Laurentius good friend, in the past days I Albericus have written to you of my return.*" At the third page the relation of the voyage itself begins, and it is curious that while HARRISSE in his extensive notes to the first Latin edition gives May 10 or 13th, or June 10, as the probable day of the departure from Lisbon, here Vespuccius himself names the first of May, "*In the year of Our Lord 1501, the first day of May we have set sail.*" There are six illustrations. Of the first page we give a fac-simile. On the second page is a picture of Jonas thrown into the mouth of the whale. On the third are four female aborigines. On the fourth, Indians fighting, while on the sixth page, the frontispiece is repeated. The female figures again appear on the last leaf and immediately thereafter is

printed, "*All this foregoing is translated and brought over from the Italian into Latin, and further from Latin into Dutch, that men may know and understand, what great wonders daily are found. Printed at Antwerp, at the Iron Balance, by Jan van Doesborch: E. celo decendit verbum quod gnothochy autin,* [know thyself.] This Dutch work has been entirely unknown, until the present time. It is not mentioned by HARRISSE nor by any other bibliographer and it is considered to be unique. It was purchased by Mr. Muller from a small library sold in 1871 at Antwerp, and was bound up with their other pieces, all printed there in the first ten years of the 16th century. Mr. Muller bought it for 830 florins (dutch) over \$300, probably the highest price ever paid for any work on America.

WOLFE AND MONTCALM.

From the Sun, (London Paper) Dec. 21, 1827.



MONUMENT is erecting at Quebec to the memory of General Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm, who fell at the taking of Quebec. Wolfe was killed at the moment of victory, and Montcalm, the French Commander in Chief, received at the same time the wound of which he died Sept. 14, 1759, (the day after the battle.) The French Government anxious to mark their approbation of Montcalm's conduct, proposed to erect a monument to his memory in Quebec. The following is a translation of a letter from M. Bougainville, member of the Academy of Sciences, to the Right Honorable William Pitt (afterwards Earl of Chatham.)

Paris, March 24, 1761.

Sir,—The honors paid, during your Ministry, to the memory of General Wolfe, give me room to hope that you will not disapprove of the grateful efforts made by the French

troops to perpetuate the memory of the Marquis de Montcalm. The corpse of that General, who was honoured with the regret of your nation, is buried at Quebec. I have the honour to send you an epitaph, which the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres have written for him, and I would beg the favour of you, Sir, to read it over, and if there be nothing improper in it, to procure me permission to send it to Quebec, engraved in marble, to put over the Marquis de Montcalm's tomb. If this permission be granted, may I presume, Sir, to entreat the honour of a line to acquaint me with it, and at the same time to send me a passport that the engraved marble may be received on board an English vessel, and that General Murray, Governor of Quebec, may give permission to have it put in the Ursuline Church. I ask pardon, Sir, for taking your attention, even for a moment, from your important concerns, but to endeavour to immortalise great men and illustrious citizens is to do honour to you.

I am, &c.,

BOUGAINVILLE.

MR. PITT'S ANSWER.

Sir,—It is a real satisfaction to me to send you the King's consent on the interesting subject of the very handsome epitaph drawn by the Academy of Sciences at Paris, for the Marquis de Montcalm, which is desired to be sent to Quebec, and to be placed on the tomb of the illustrious Warrior. The noble sentiments expressed, and the desire to pay this tribute to the memory of their General, by the French troops who served in Canada, and who saw him fall at their head, in a manner worthy of him and of them, cannot be too much applauded.

I shall take a pleasure, Sir, in facilitating a design so full of respect to the deceased, and as soon as I am informed of the measures taken for embarking the marble, I shall immediately grant the passport you desire, and send orders to

the Governor of Canada for its reception. As to the rest be assured, Sir, that I have a just sense of the sentiments expressed towards myself in the letter with which you honoured me, and that I deem it a singular happiness to have an opportunity to express those sentiments of distinguished esteem and consideration, with which

I have the honour to be, &c.,

WM. PITT.

London, April 10, 1761.

[Can any of our readers give us information respecting the tablet referred to in this correspondence.—ED.]

A CENTENARIAN.

IN 1814, when Pittsburg was but a village, an old man named Jacob Fournais, then aged about 70 years, arrived there from Canada, and after a brief sojourn proceeded to New Orleans. The old man, died on the 22nd of July, 1871, in Kansas City, at the age of 134 years. Fournais was probably the oldest man living. He was a French Canadian by birth, and for more than half a century was a hunter and a trapper in the employ of the fur company, one of the French *Voyageurs*, as they were called. He was never sick, and only a few minutes before he died was walking about the room. His age was entered on the census roll in 1870 at 134 years, which is as near as from the best evidence it could be fixed. His recollection of important events, was very good, and, as he was an illiterate man, his memory held to isolated circumstances, not as history obtained from reading books. He said he was working in the woods on a piece of land he had bought for himself, near Quebec, when Wolfe was killed on the Heights of Abraham. This was September 13th, 1759,

and from what he told of his life previous to that he must have then been over 21 years of age. Thinking he might have confounded Wolfe with Montgomery (1775) he was questioned fully, but his recollection of names and incidents was too distinct to leave any doubt, and the same account had been given by him to others long before. Another event which he remembered well, and which he seemed always to look upon as a good joke, was that during the occupation of New Orleans by General Jackson (1814-15) he had been refused enlistment "because he was too old." The old man often told this with great glee. He must then have been about 80 years old. He accompanied the expedition of Lewis and Clarke, in their explorations of the Missouri, and the discovery of the Columbia River, 1803-7. For the past seven or eight years the old man's recollections of faces were often at fault, but his memory of events and incidents seemed as strong as ever, like pictures in his mind—and this retention of occurrences was the great help in determining his age. The last thirty years of his life were passed in quiet and comfort. He preferred living by himself and always had his own house, where he kept his pipe and tobacco pouch, and such things as were articles of comfort to him, mostly such as he had from his residence with the Indians—not forgetting his rosary and a few religious pictures, which hung above his bed. He was very neat in his person, clothes, and housekeeping, and up to the time of his death, attended in summer to his tobacco plants and his cabbages. One of his great desires was to see a railroad, and when the first locomotive came screaming into the bottom near Kansas City, which was in full view of his house, he was nervous as a child until he visited it. He then expressed himself satisfied, saying, "he could tell God he had seen a railroad."

— British Columbia—so called from Christopher Columbus.

INTERESTING AUTOGRAPH LETTER,
IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY (WORCESTER, MASS.)



THE following letter of General Charles Lee is addressed to Brig. Gen. Wooster who was then in Montreal.

New York, Feby ye 27th 1776.

Sir

I am to inform ye that I am appointed by the Continental Congress to the command of the Troops in Canada. I hope and dare say we shall agree well together. I must request you to contract and grind into flour twenty thousand Bushels of Wheat. I must also desire that you will suffer the Merchants of Montreal to send none of their woollen Cloths out of the Town—the post is just going out I must therefore conclude.

Sir, yours

CHARLES LEE

Major General.

I have ordered twelve twelve-pounders from Crown Point to Sorrel—I leave it to your discretion whether it would not be prudent before it is too late in the season to send on to the Falls where it appears to me you ought to establish a Post."

CURRENCY OF CANADA IN 1808.

(*Lambert's Travels.*)



ONEY in Canada is reckoned at the following weight and currency, agreeable to an act passed by the Provincial Parliament in April (1808).

British Guinea, 5 dwts. 6 grs. Troy. £1 3s. 4d.

Jeannes of Portugal	18	"	"	4	0	0
Moidore, "	6	"	18	"	1	10
American Eagle,	11	"	6	"	2	10

When weighed in bulk, the rate is currency 4*l.* 9*s.* per oz. Troy.

Milled doubloon or 4 Pistole piece	17 dwts. 0 grs.	£3 14 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
French Louis D'or, coined before 1793,	5 " 4 "	1 2 8
" Pistole	" " " 4 " 4 "	18 3

When weighed in bulk, the rate is currency £4 7*s.* 8½*d.* per oz. troy ; and in the same proportion for all the higher and lower denominations of the said gold coins.

For every grain which the British, Portuguese or American coins weigh more than the standard, there is to be allowed and added 2¼*d.* currency ; and for every grain less 2¼*d.* is to be deducted. And for every grain which the Spanish and French Gold coins weigh more or less than the standard, there is to be an allowance of 2 1/5 currency.

In every payment, exceeding the sum of twenty pounds where one party requires it, gold is to be weighed in bulk, and pass at the above rates ; and a deduction of half a grain Troy is to be made on every piece of coin so weighed, as a compensation to the receiver, for the loss he may sustain in paying away the same by the single piece,

The silver coins are as follows :

Spanish Piaster or Dollar	. . . . .	5 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
English Crown	. . . . .	5 6
French " of 6 livres tournois	. . . . .	5 6
" " 4 " 10 sols	. . . . .	4 2
English Shilling	. . . . .	1 1
French piece of 24 sols tournois	. . . . .	1 1
L'Escalin or Pistreen	. . . . .	1 0
French piece of 36 sols tournois	. . . . .	1 8

The copper coin in circulation is English. The half-pence are called *sols* by the French and *coppers* by the British.

CRENATED OR MILLED EDGED COINS,

(From Ansell's Royal Mint.)

THE origin of the crenated, commonly called the "milled," edge (thus giving the name of the instrument to the substance operated upon), was the desire to make any clipping of the coin easily noticeable. Many devices were used, but John Evelyn suggested the motto, *Decus et tutamen*, and this was retained for some coins until 1864. The crenated edge is now produced, without exception, and it is really the best, as admitting of easier detection if counterfeited. The distinctive marking of the edges of coins is of very early date, and was performed by various species of hand labour, each in its turn easy of falsification. At length this was effected by machinery until finally the coin was formed by striking the blank while enclosed in a collar. The use of the collar, and its first invention, are somewhat doubtful; Mr. Hawkins, however, appears to have established the fact of its having been used at so early a date as William the Conqueror (*vide* "Ruding," vol. i. p. 158); but the earliest coin which gives a clear notion of the use of a collar is the celebrated Petition Crown of Simon, which he coined for and presented to Charles II.

A specimen of this very highly prized coin was sold a few years since for £275 sterling. It derives its name from an inscription which surrounds its edge in raised letters and which is as follows: "Thomas Simon, most humbly prays your Majesty, to compare this his tryall piece with the Dvtch, and if more truly drawn & embossed more gracefully ordered and more accurately engraven to relieve him."

The Late Mr. W. H. Barton thought that this coin must have been struck while surrounded by a collar, or it could not have been produced at all. This opinion induced a further search for the collar which was used, and which is believed

to be in existence, and to have been seen by men now living,—it is probably amongst the collection of curiosities of coining left by Mr. W. H. Barton. Mr. Barton suggested that the petition must have been engraved on a fillet of steel, which was then coiled up in a collar, and that the blank to be coined was then placed in the coiled fillet of steel. The coin having been struck, the fillet with the coin was knocked out from the collar, just as medals are now knocked out; and, once free, the fillet sprang off from the coin. This conjecture is strongly confirmed by minute examination, which shows the metal to have been forced through part of the fillet, where its ends, which are cut to fit each other, did not quite meet. The head of this protruding part has been filed off, the file marks still remaining visible on this part of the edge of the coin. This fact renders Mr. Barton's conjecture almost a certainty. The coin weighs 517-10 grains; its average diameter is on the obverse 1-5784 inches, and on the reverse 1-5837 inches, both measures having been taken on the extreme edge. The petition is somewhat sunken and rounding inwards. If therefore it be measured from its lowest part, the centre of the edge of the coin, the diameter of the coin is 1-5741 inches, giving 0-0043 inch which must be worn away before the top of the letters of the petition can be touched in ordinary wear; thus the coin would circulate for centuries, and its petition still remain untouched. The coin being 0-0053 inch greater in diameter on its reverse than on its obverse side, admitted of its being more readily punched out from its collar, which was doubtless cut to admit of this design being carried out. The engraving on this coin is the cause of its great value, Simon having so perfectly carried out the idea that coins should represent sculpture, that this specimen stands wholly unrivalled as a coin. It has led to the impression that so good artists are not to be found at this day as flourished then. The fact is that artists seek such employment as remunerates them for their study;

and until their conditions of employment are satisfied we must abstain from the desire to see coins such as were produced in ages past, and which gave an honorable name to the country producing them. It may be hoped that this means of preserving the history of the age in which so much has been done may be continued. It was probably from this collar of Simon's that Sir Isaac Newton gained his idea for that which he is said to have invented. The collar of the present day leaves nothing to desire, for it gives so distinctive a mark to the edge of the coin that any mutilation must be detected; while forgers are unable to produce coins to imitate those struck in it, unless they use the same means, which would incur too great an expense. The coinages of Victor Emmanuel illustrate beautifully how easily coins may be struck so that, after years of wear, they still represent the original more than creditably. To take an instance, a bronze coin, 5 centesimi, has been purposely subjected, for eight years, to more than ordinary rough usage. This coin is little worn; the whole of the features are still perfect, except that the hair is worn off above the ears, and part of the moustache is removed. The secret of success in this coin appears to be that the ear and adjacent parts are slightly sunken, while the whole of the work and inscription are kept well below the protecting edges, and there is not an indistinct figure or letter on the coin.

AN ANCIENT RELIC.

(From the American Antiquarian.)



HE remarkable career of Francisco Pizarro, Marquis of Atavillos, Conquestador and Viceroys of Peru—how he set out from Panama, with one hundred and eighty men and twenty-seven horses, in three small vessels which he had built there, to conquer an Empire of warlike and [partially civilised people; how he

secured the person of the Inca by treachery; collected the ransom stipulated for his release; condemned him to death; and the Inca, having accepted the alternative of baptism to that of being burned alive, was christened Don Juan Atahualpa, then strangled with a bow-string, and buried with royal honors in the church Pizarro had erected, are all familiar to our readers.

Not less so are the facts of his own assassination from motives of revenge, by the "men of Chili," the adherents of the Marescal de Almagro, who after years of close alliance with Pizarro, as his partner in cattle farming on Chagres river, (where they earned the eighteen thousand pesos of gold which fitted out that expedition,) as his ally in the conquest of Peru and Chili, as his brother-in-arms in many scenes of blood and rapine, quarreled with him at last as to the division line of their respective territories, became his rival, his enemy, and finally the captive of his brother and lieutenant, Fernando Pizarro, was tried and executed, and then interred with extraordinary honors.

The assassination of Pizarro occurred at Los Reyes, the city he had founded, on Sunday, June 26th, 1541. It is related that, when aware of his danger, "he found time to throw off his purple robe to put on a cuirass and to seize a spear;" but, being overwhelmed by assailants, was soon dispatched. He is supposed to have died at the age of 71.

The following note with its enclosure, recalls his history and fate.

LEGACION

del

.....



COL. BAILEY MYERS:

My Dear Sir :—As you are fond of historical curiosities, I have the pleasure to send you the above piece of the robe of Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, which I took myself,

last year, from his coffin at the Lima Cathedral vaults, where his skeleton, wrapped with the said cloth, is shown.

I am, dear sir,
Faithfully yours,

• • • • •

12 October, 1870.

Minister of • • • • •

The fragment of silk is of very fine texture, similar to that now used for sleeve-linings, perfectly firm, of a deep brown color, with the appearance of having once been purple, the color, in which as vice-roy, he would have been clothed, and perhaps, was the purple robe which he threw off before the fatal struggle. The dry climate of Peru, where everything is preserved, and even the bodies of the ancient Incas still exist, accounts for its preservation; while the lapse of time excuses the appropriation of this fragment of the raiment of so remarkable a character, with a view of recalling the memory of one who, more than three centuries ago, so indelibly connected his name with the history of America.

LEGENDS ON THE COINS OF MODERN REPUBLICS.

BY HENRY MOTT.



HAPPILY it is not within our province to meddle with politics, all controversies are excluded from this neutral ground, nevertheless it is impossible for any one to be an earnest student in numismatics without gaining a vast amount of information with reference to the changes of government in various States and countries, until by degrees he becomes well "posted" in dates and other facts connected with them, which rivet the attention, and become indelibly fixed in the memory.

We need not go back "to the long glories of majestic

Rome," for an illustration, we need not now speak of the "Tribute money" as evidence of the interest awakened in this art; every coin has some history attached to it, if it be only within our reach to find out that history.

We will take from our cabinet a *5 centesimi* piece of the Provisional Government of Venice, 1848-49, and it tells not alone of the *Rialto*, and *the Bridge of Sighs*, of *Shylock* and of *Marino Faliero*, but it speaks trumpet-tongued of Daniel Manin, and the heroic defence of Venice, under his Government.

In 1847, Manin, became popular in Venice, through the legal resistance which he promoted against Austrian misrule, and in March, 1848, he was elected one of the provisional government of the newly arisen Republic. The defence of Venice from August 1848, to August 1849, was the joint result of the firmness of Manin, and the devotion of the people to the cause of Italy.

Amidst the difficulties of the situation, with no other military resources than the heroism of her volunteers, Venice withstood for a whole year, the power of Austria by land and by sea. Manin, supported by the Venetian assembly and by the hearts of his fellow-countrymen, preserved order all through the siege, and redeemed, through a generous struggle, the honor of his country.

Daniel Manin, died in Paris, an exile, but his remains were subsequently carried to Venice and buried in the Church of St. Mark.

Are we not reminded, too, of the triumphal entry of Victor Emanuel, into Venice, at a later date, as King of Italy, a title won for him, in part, by the self devotion and lofty patriotism of Daniel Manin.

Would not the "1 Kreuzer" of Hungary, 1848, lead us to follow the fortunes of Louis Kossuth and his brother, exiles? We might also cite the "3 Bajocchi" of the Roman Republic of 1849, (we remark that we have here

Repubblica with *two B's*) and would not Mazzini, and Garibaldi and the noble defence of the City against the expeditionary army of the French under General Oudinot, rise to our memory?

Many of these *Republican* coins, are of very high merit as to their execution, although it must be admitted that there are some few exceptions, (mostly of the South American Republics) which are perhaps as ugly, as any lover of monarchy could wish.

One odd instance may be noticed, viz. : "the 5 Franc piece of France 1806" which is remarkable for bearing on the obverse the bust of Napoleon, with the legend "Napoleon Empereur" whilst the reverse bears "Republique Française," which may be remembered as one of the "*reverses*" which France has been subjected to under the Napoleon regime.

In consequence of the excesses of the first French Revolution, it has become customary to condemn a republican form of government as atheistical and infidel, and everything dangerous to the best interests of Society, but judged from their coinage, they compare favorably with monarchy.

The commonwealth of England has the modest legend "God with us." Republican France, in addition to its declaration "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité," bears also the aspiration "Dieu protege la France," The coinage of the United States (at the suggestion it is said of their martyred President, Abraham Lincoln,) carries the simple declaration, "In God we trust." The Provisional Government of Lombardy, in 1848, inscribed on their silver 5 Lire piece, "Italia Libera Dio lo Vuole," and so on, we might produce many examples, but we prefer to conclude this rambling essay by commending the lofty and gallant motto suggested by Joseph Mazzini for the Roman Republic, "Dio e Popolo," God and the people.

EARLY COINAGE OF THE UNITED STATES.

From Vermont Coinage,

BY REV. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A.M.



IN the United States, anterior to 1776, very few coins were struck. The Colony of Massachusetts Bay issued, in 1652, silver coins, having "N.E." stamped upon them: these were soon followed by the well known "pine-tree money," and this coinage was continued for more than thirty years. Steps were taken by the colonies of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina for the establishment of mints, but none of them appear to have advanced so far as to have coined money. The copper pieces in circulation were for the most part of European origin. The only exception, as far as we are informed, was the "Granby Copper" manufactured by Samuel Higley at Granby, Connecticut, about the year 1737. These unauthorized medalets were circulated as coins, were of pure copper from the Granby mines, and as they were struck from several dies, we may infer that the number issued was considerable.

Between the Declaration of American Independence in 1776, and the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in 1788, often denominated the period of the Confederation, several of the states established mints, or authorized the manufacture and issue of coins. Among these Vermont took the lead, her first act, authorizing the issue of coins, bearing date of June 15, 1785. Connecticut came next, her act being October 20, 1785. New Jersey followed. June 1, 1786, and Massachusetts, October 17, 1786. These were the only states that issued coins during the period of the Confederation, and none were struck except in copper. Massachusetts established a proper mint, and the business was conducted by the authority and in behalf of the state. The other three states issued patents to private persons on

their petition, who, under heavy bonds and careful restrictions, manufactured the coins at their own risk and as a private enterprise.

FAMILY NAMES IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.



HE author of "Maple Leaves" in his new work "*L'Album de Touriste*," furnishes some curious details on this subject.

"Just take note," says, Mr. Le Moine, "of the number of names which have originated in one's physical deformity, or else in some virtue or fault of the owner."

"Lebel, Lejuste, Legros, Lebon, Ledoux, Letendre, L'amoureux, Jolicœur, Legrand, Ledroit, Lesage, Leclerc, Leborgne, Vadeboncœur, Bontemps, Vieutemps, Boneau, Bellchumeur, Belleavance, Bellerive, Beurivage, Bonnechose, Beauregard, Beausoleil, Sanspitié, Sansoucis, Sansfaçon, Sanschagrin, Sansquartier, Labonté, Lavertu, Lajoic, Lajeunesse, Ladouceur, Laliberté, Ladébauche, Lavigueur, Laforce, Lachaine, Lapensée, Lachance, L'heureux, Lamusique."

This latter cognomen will loom out grander still when its adjunct—Portugais alias Lamusique.

Some French names have a martial ring: "Taille-fer, Tranche-montagne:" you think yourself back to the middle ages.

Several years ago, a young Italian on his arrival from Rome, settled in Quebec. He was known as "Audiverti dit Romain." The name seemed too long. The first half was dropped, he was called Romain. A son having established himself in Toronto, the English ear required that an e be added to his foreign name and it became and has continued to this day Romaine.

Colors, Fruits, Woods, also furnished fair allowance: Leblanc, Lenoir, Lebrun, Legris, Leroux, Lafleur, Lespervenches, Larose, Laviolette, Jasmin, Lframboise, Lefraisaier, (Fraser) Bois, Grosbois, Boisjoli, Boisvert, Bois-brilliant, Dupin, Dutremble, Dufresne, Duchesne.

Titles or dignities, were converted into family names: Leroy or Roy, Duc or Leduc, Marquis, Comte or Lecomte, Baron or Lebaron, Chevalier, or Lechevalier, Senechal, Ecuyer or Lecuyer, Page or Lepage.

Owners of Castles will identify themselves with them: Châteaufort, Châteaupert, Chateaubrand, Châteauneuf, Châteaurouge.

Objects met daily will furnish a large contingent: Larue, Lapierre, Lafontaine, Latremouille, Lachapelle, L'Oiseau, Lerossignol, Létourneau, Lelièvre, Lamontagne, Lavallée, Larivière, Lagrange.

Let us pass to the names of Provinces. Normandy Provence, Gascony, Brittany, Lorraine, Picardy, Anjou, Poitevin the Basque country will be represented by very familiar names Norman, Provençal LeGascon, LeBreton, Lorain or Laurin, Picard, Angevin, Poitevin, LeBasque.

The native of Tours, Lille, Blois, and Lyons, responds to his name when called Taurangeau, Lillois, Deblois, Lonnais, sometimes the appellation will be generalised thus Abraham Martin, will have also dit l'Écossais; Jean Saisrien, will have his also dit l'Anglais.

Then there are our sonorous names for Counties, borrowed from Indian dialect, recalling the virgin forest: Pontiac, Outouais, Hochelaga, Kamouraska, Rimouski, Cacouna, just like our wild euphonious names for individuals—Pocahontas Captain Smith's devoted friend: Tuscarora, Mincha! ha! laughing Waters.

Some times names are curiously transformed, thus Bois Brûlé is pawned off on us as Bob Ridley.—

Oh! Bob Ridley oh!

Oh! Bob Ridley oh!

In the case of Cap Chat or Chatte, would there be a Shaw in the case, a relation of that dreadful attorney immortalized on marble :—

Here lies
 John Shaw,
 Attorney at law,
 When he died
 The ——— cried :
 " Give us your paw
 John Shaw
 Attorney at law."

CANADIAN TRADE AND COMMERCE

IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

(*Memoirs of North America.*)



INOW give a brief and general account of the commerce of Canada. The Normans were the first that set up this trade, and usually they set out from Havre de Grace or Dieppe ; but the Rochelers have now worked them out of it, for as much as the Rochel ships furnish the inhabitants of the continent with the necessary commodities. There are likewise some ships sent to Canada from Bourdeaux and Bayonne, with wines, brandy, tobacco and iron.

The ships bound from France to that country pay no custom for their cargo, whether in clearing in France, or in their entries at Quebec ; abating for the Brazil tobacco which pays five sols a pound ; that is to say, a roll of four hundred pound weight pays a hundred livres by way of entry, to the office of the farmers general.

The Merchant who has carried on the greatest trade in Canada is the Sicur Samuel Bernon, of Rochel, who has great

warehouses at Quebec, from which the inhabitants of the other towns are supplied with such commodities as they want.

There is no difference between the pirates that scour the seas, and the Canada merchants, unless it be this, that the former sometimes enrich themselves all of a sudden by a good prize ; and that the latter cannot make their fortune without trading for five or six years, and that without running the hazard of their lives. I have known twenty little pedlars that had not above a thousand crowns stock when I arrived at Quebec, in the year 1683, and when I left that place had got to the tune of twelve thousand crowns. It is an unquestioned truth, that they get fifty per cent. upon all the goods they deal in, whether they buy them up upon the arrival of the ships at Quebec, or have them from France, by way of commission : but over and above that, there are some little gaudy trinkets, such as ribbands, laces, embroideries, tobacco-boxes, watches, and an infinity of other baubles of iron-ware, upon which they get a hundred and fifty per cent all costs clear.

As soon as the French ships arrive at Quebec, the merchants of that city, who have their factors in the other towns, load their barks with goods in order to transport them to these other towns. Such merchants as act for themselves at Trois Rivieres, or Montreal, come down in person to Quebec to market for themselves, and then put their effects on board of barks, to be conveyed home. If they pay for their goods in skins, they buy cheaper than if they made their payments in money or letters of exchange ; by reason that the seller gets considerably by the skins when he returns to France. Now, you must take notice, that all these skins are bought up from the inhabitants, or from the savages, upon which the merchants are considerable gainers. To give you an instance of this matter ; a person that lives in the neighbourhood of Quebec carries a dozen of martin skins five or six fox skins, and as many skins of wild cats, to a

merchant's house, in order to sell them for woollen cloth, linen, arms, ammunition, &c. In the truck of these skins the merchant draws a double profit, one upon the score of his paying no more for the skins than one-half of what he afterwards sells them for in the lump to the factors, for the Rochel ships; and the other by the exorbitant rate he puts upon the goods that the poor planter takes in exchange for his skins. If this be duly weighed, we will not think it strange that these merchants have a more beneficial trade than a great many other tradesmen in the world.

A GOSSIP ON TRADESMEN'S TOKENS:

IN the City of London, there still exists a narrow thoroughfare called "Tokenhouse Yard." It was so entitled from an ancient building, once an office for the delivery of tradesmen's farthing pocket-pieces or tokens. Here let us have a short chat on copper coins generally. Copper money was common in Greece, was known for two centuries previous to a silver coinage in Rome, and yet, singularly enough, was not employed in modern Europe till upwards of a thousand years afterwards. The Saxons adopted the form of their penny from the Roman *denarius*. It was divided by a cross, and being ordinarily divided into four quarters, was used as the fourth-thing, or farthing, the epithet now applied to our smallest coin. Might not an eighth be useful?—unless, indeed, we advocate a decinal coinage, which would afford numerous facilities. Copper coins were unauthorized, with but few exceptions, until 1672. It was objected to such a coinage that it would favour a spurious circulation of counterfeits, called black money—which, though of copper, were washed with about a fifth of silver. Two kinds of this money existed—one forged to pass as silver, and that tolerated called billion money, originally coined in France, while under English

rule, for the French population; and the name was given to distinguish it from the white or pure silver coinage. Queen Elizabeth and her subjects were very reluctant to admit this base coin into circulation. Edward V. was the last king who coined silver farthings, the value of Metals having increased so much that it became impossible to cast so small a specie of money. It is certain that such an issue was made by this prince, but none of them are preserved. The small size of a silver halfpenny (four grains or under) though tolerated down to the time of the Commonwealth, was very inconvenient. Many cities issued *tokens* in the reign of Elizabeth, but they were only permitted to be circulated where first issued; and were ultimately called in by the Government. In London, the necessities of trade made the issue of *tokens* exceedingly great. No less than three thousand dealers coined *tokens*, which, when returned to the issuer, were exchanged for ancient coin or value. This circulation going on to an enormous extent, the Government in 1594 were forced to legalize a copper coinage. A small coin was struck, about the bulk of a silver two-pence, with the Queen's monogram on one side, and a rose on the other, with a running legend for each of "The pledge of a halfpenny." It was soon called in, however, for the Queen refused to confirm the issue.

In 1609, Sir Robert Cotton wrote a tract named "How Kings of England have Supported and Repaired their Estates," in which he says,—

"Benefit to the king will fall out if he restrain retailers from using their own tokens, for in London were about 3,000 that cast one with another five pounds a-piece yearly of leaden tokens, whereof a tenth remaineth not to them at the year's end, and when they renew their store, which amounteth to £15,000. And the whole realm is not inferior to the City, in proportion. In London, which is not a 24th part of the people, was lately found 800,000, which so giveth 2d. to each person, which may

be no burden at the first issue, but of benefit to the meaner sort. Buyers would not be tied to one seller and his bad commodities, if the tokens were made current by authority among all ; and to the poor it would be much relief, since men are like to give a farthing alms that will not part with a greater sum."

Thus, threepenny and fourpenny silver pieces are in great request at charity sermons, though it is a disputed point whether the collections are larger or smaller in consequence.

The issue of King James's royal farthings commenced on May 19, 1613, by proclamation. They had two sceptres in saltier, surmounted by a crown on one side, and the harp on the reverse—perhaps to indicate that, if refused in England, they would be ordered to pass in Ireland. They were not made a legal tender, but merely tokens, for which Government would give other coin on demand. This copper money was distrustfully received, and had but a small circulation. In 1635, Charles I, coined some with a rose instead of a harp. The following year he granted to Henry, Lord Maltravers, and Sir Francis Crane a patent to coin farthings, but they were not made a lawful tender. During the civil war, private persons issued tokens to a vast extent. Charles II. coined halfpence and farthings at the Tower, in 1670, but two years elapsed before they were issued by proclamation. They were composed of pure Swedish copper, and circulated freely until 1684, when they were called in, owing to a dispute as to the value of copper : after which came a coinage of tin farthings, with a copper centre, and the inscription, "*Humorum famulus*, 1685-1686." Halfpence of the same kind were used in the next year, and the use of copper was not resumed till 1696, when all the tin money was called in. Was it from this wretched coin that the cant phrase of "tin," instead of "money," came into vogue? Pinkerton winds up his account of tokens by informing us that "all the farthings of Anne's reign were trial pieces ; they were struck in 1712,

and are of exquisite workmanship, exceeding most copper coins, both ancient and modern." Croker the artist derived lasting honour from them. On the finest is peace in a car, inscribed, "*Pax missa per orbem.*" Another has Britannia under a portal. All readers of Swift's works must remember his "Drapers' Letters," occasioned by the issue of a debased copper coinage in Ireland. It would probably have circulated without complaint but for the Dean's energetic invectives, which quickly raised the anger of the Emerald Islanders to fever heat, and, after a short but violent struggle, the obnoxious coppers were withdrawn. Anne's precious farthings are in great request with collectors, and are said to fetch their weight in gold. The shilling of the same reign is also a very fine coin. In the previous reign, the whole coinage of the country was miserably debased, and when Newton became Master of the Mint, in 1699, it was his grand object to restore its efficiency. In 1705, when he was knighted by Queen Anne, he had to a great extent accomplished this laudable object; at all events, the coin as restored by his labours remained in circulation with little or no change after the death of his royal mistress up to the close of the reign of George II.

The heavy coarse copper money, which now included pence as well as halfpence and farthings, was composed of a very debased species of copper, and often resembled cast-iron more than anything else. The pence, halfpence, and farthings, of George II. were especially clumsy: five shillings worth of them was quite a load, and though indispensable as small change—for there were no silver pieces of a lower denomination than sixpence—it was quite an object to escape such a burden in receiving or paying money. The iron money of ancient Sparta seemed reproduced, recalling to mind the Italian painter who died from fatigue owing to the weight of a money payment. Late in the reign of George III., when my boyish recollections of copper money

commences, the pennies and halfpence continued to be uncomfortably heavy, and the king's ungainly effigy looked uneasy on the clumsy disc. The farthings probably were about the size of our present halfpence, but tradespeople readily received them in payment, because the silver coin was so scandalously deteriorated that it was often difficult to make out whether you possessed shillings and sixpences, or merely pieces of hammered tin.

One expedient to ameliorate the coinage was to stamp some Spanish Dollars, captured in a naval engagement, with a miniature die of the sovereign, and with that addenda they were circulated as tokens first at a value of 4s. 9d. each, and ultimately at 5s. A second plan was to issue silver tokens at a value of 1s. 6d. and 3s., but no attempt was made to substitute anything more satisfactory for the worn-out or spurious shillings and sixpences, which had become a positive nuisance. To add to the annoyance, during the long war, nearly all the great towns, and many of the chief manufacturing firms, coined copper money for themselves. This, it was alleged, was only a medium for the payment of workmen, and the restricted wants of the township. But how restrain it within such narrow limits? The whole country was quickly deluged with this unauthorized coin, while Ireland, eagerly seizing the example set up her copper mint; and few things were more troublesome than to distinguish between genuine and spurious copper money. During the Regency, and in the reign of George IV., the debased coin gradually disappeared, and some of the new coins, especially a five-shilling piece (never much circulated), were very beautiful. The pence, halfpence, and farthings grew perceptibly lighter, but in other respects were not improved. William IV. did not alter the coinage to any great extent, and the pieces we now occasionally handle—sovereigns and half-sovereigns being the most common—certainly have no pretence to elegance. Her present Majesty has nearly engrossed the

whole coinage to herself. For one gold coin with the bust of George or William, at least ten or twelve bear that of Queen Victoria; and inspecting a handful of silver just now, there was only a single piece with a ghost-like shadow of George III., and a second with the nearly impalpable head of William IV., while all the others, over twenty, rejoiced in the effigy of Victoria. As for the copper circulation, its tendency from the early years of our gracious lady has been to lightness, and the latest change has culminated in what is facetiously called a "bronze coinage." It is wonderfully light, and so far eminently convenient, but one's digital feelings have grown sadly at fault. Till recently, a penny was a penny, and a peripatetic philosopher was not likely to disburse twopence in almsgiving where he only reckoned upon one; now, on the contrary, pence, confounded with halfpence, are seldom definitely known, while a bright farthing has more than once passed muster for a half-sovereign.

There still seems an obvious want of some more manageable coin. Could gold be rendered available, and miniature angels do duty as small coin? Our silver piece of three-pence and fourpence are so much alike that there is no distinguishing them without trying the edge. Gold will bear to be beaten extremely thin, and might be unmistakably marked with the real value. It would be easy to have 5s. and 2s. 6d. tokens of value in the same metal, the superior hardness of which would be another advantage.

It is remarkable that England possesses an unbroken series of pennies from Egbert to Victoria, if we except the reigns of Richard I. and John, whose coins were French and Irish. The earliest pennies weigh $22\frac{1}{2}$ grains Troy. Edward III.'s weigh 18 grains; they then fell to 15, and in the reign of Edward IV. were but 12. Edward VI. reduced his pennies to 8 grains, and Elizabeth to little more than 7. We also meet with halfpennies and farthings of silver. Such coins were struck by Edward I., and were in use up to

Charles I. There was also the groat piece, introduced by Edward III., and the testoons, or shillings, by Henry VII. Crown pieces of silver were originally issued by Henry VIII., and Queen Bess coined three-halfpenny and three-farthing pieces, which were not continued by succeeding monarchs.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

(Condensed from the Minutes.)



ON the 11th December, the Annual meeting was held in the rooms of the Natural History Society, Mr. H. Mott, President, in the chair.

The usual routine business having been disposed of, the President read his annual report and address, from which we make the following extract :

To the Members of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal :

GENTLEMEN,—It again becomes my duty to address you on the occasion of another Annual Meeting, and although I cannot congratulate you upon any large addition to the Member-roll of the Society, I do believe that our Society is wider and more favourably known than at any former period of its existance.

This is in a great measure to be accorded to the publication of the Society's Journal, the *Canadian Antiquarian*, which has now reached the second number, and the very favorable reception it has met with, not only in Canada, but in the United States, and in England, is the best evidence of its success.

I cannot but express my thanks to my esteemed colleagues

in the editorial department, for their uniform kindness and courtesy towards me at all times, also to the Vice-President, Mr. Rose, who as Printer of the *Antiquarian* has never ceased to take a lively interest in its success, and has spared no labour or expense to make it a worthy exponent of the aims and objects for which the Society is incorporated.

Another subject upon which I very sincerely congratulate the Members is the fact that the Society has during the past year obtained a grant from the Provincial Government to aid it in its labours. Our Treasurer will duly report to you that he is in possession of the grant for the current year; and you are probably already aware that the Society has been included in the estimates for the coming year, so that in a financial point of view we are certainly in a better position than we have been at any former period.

It should now be our aim to increase the usefulness of the Society, by endeavouring to induce our friends to take an interest in our work and to become members of the Society, and to do this effectually, I am more than ever convinced that we should place the Society and its collection prominently before the public. I am sure that if our collection of coins, medals, &c., was on exhibition, we should very soon find persons willing to lend their assistance to increase our store of specimens, and also our library, which department I regard as a very important and attractive branch, and one which can scarcely be overestimated in its value and usefulness to the community.

Let not be discouraged at the smallness of the commencement, as the acorn becomes in time the sturdy oak, as the babbling brook, in its course becomes the mighty river, let us "pluck up heart of grace" and determine never to relax in our efforts until we have made the cabinet of this Society a source of interest and instruction to the entire population of Montreal.

Although we have made some progress during the past

year, by way of donation to our Cabinet and Library, it has only been quite recently that the funds of the Society have been in a position to warrant any outlay towards purchasing specimens, or even to procure suitable cases for the proper exhibition of the present possessions of the Society, this we are now, however, in a position to overcome.

I thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me in the past, and also for the kind patience which you have accorded to me this evening.

HENRY MOTT,
President.

The Treasurer's account shewed a balance of \$130.30 to the credit of the Society after payment of all liabilities to date. The account not including the receipts or disbursements for the Society's Magazine which are kept separate.

The election of Office bearers, resulted as follows :

<i>President,</i>	Henry Mott,
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Daniel Rose,
<i>2nd " "</i>	Major L. A. H. Latour,
<i>Treasurer & Curator,</i>	R. W. McLachlan,
<i>Secretary,</i>	Gerald E. Hart.

Donations were received from :—Hon. P. J. O. Cheaveau, Minister of Education,—Copies of the Journal of Education, French and English. Mr. H. Mott,—Statutes of the Order of the Bath. Literary and Historical Society of Quebec,—The Transaction for 1871-72. Gerald E. Hart,—several ancient and valuable maps.

The meeting then adjourned.

GERALD E. HART.
Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

WE learn with pleasure that the Committee of Publication of the New England Numismatic and Archaeological Society, propose publishing a work on the early coinage of America, which will form the most complete and thorough work on the early Numismatic History of America that has ever appeared. This work will also commend itself to those outside of the Numismatic circle, embracing, as it will, so many interesting points in early history. Our readers will do well to forward their orders at once to S. S. Crosby, Esq., 240 Washington Street, Boston, as the edition to be printed will consist of 350 copies only. It will be issued in about 10 numbers of 32 quarto pages each, copiously illustrated. Price \$1.00 American currency per number, and all orders must be accompanied with \$5, one-half the estimated cost of the work. Our friends in Boston deserve credit for their enterprise, and we wish them every success.

— The next number of the *Canadian Antiquarian* will contain an interesting article prepared by W. Kingsford, Esq., C.E., Ottawa, upon the origin of the scarce and curious Canadian coin, commonly known as the "Vexator Canadensis." There will also appear a number of wood engravings of places of historic interest.

— Mr. R. W. McLachlan, Treasurer of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, recently purchased (in Paris), a large number of beautiful Bronze Medals, among which were the medals struck to commemorate the founding of Louisbourg and the Treaty of Peace, 1763. On looking over his acquisition, Mr. McLachlan found one which had been struck from the reverse dies of these two medals. This error or accident adds another to our list of Canadian medals. It may be described as follows :

Obv. Peace standing holding an olive branch in her right

hand, and caduceus in her left. War seated, with his hands bound behind him. Legend, "Pax Ubique Victrix." Ex. "Gallorum et Brittanorum Concordia. MDCCCLXIII." Rev. Fortress with shipping in the harbor. Legend, "Lodovicoburgum Fundatum et Munitum M.DCC.XX."

REVIEWS.

[All books intended for notice in these pages, must be addressed to the Editors *Canadian Antiquarian*, Box 427, P.O. Montreal.]



TRANSACTIONS of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, 1871-72, new series part 9. It would be difficult to overestimate the value of the Society before which the interesting papers forming the contents of this volume, have been read. To its unremitting labors the general public are indebted for the preservation of much that is valuable relating to the early history of our Country, which would otherwise have been destroyed. But not alone to History is its patronage and fostering care extended. Its range is wide enough to encircle subjects of general interest, and a volume of its published "Transactions" cannot fail to prove instructive and profitable. The volume now before us contains among other papers, two by Dr. Anderson, President of the Society. The first is entitled "The Siege and blockade of Quebec by Generals Montgomery and Arnold, 1775-6." In the second on "The Archives of Canada," the writer in a clear and concise manner reviews the frequent and persistent efforts of the Society to secure the attention of the Government to the importance of establishing a Bureau of Archives, while at the same time they were by every possible means securing originals or copies of rare manuscripts relating to Canada. The remaining papers are "Southern Africa and the Kaffirs,"—By R. E. Robertson, Esq., Major, II. M. 60th Rifles; "Artillery Retrospect of the Last Great War,"—By Lieut. Colonel T. B. Strange, Domin-

ion Artillery; "Geometry, Mensuration, and the Stereometrical Tableau,"—By Charles Baillaigé, Esq., Civil Engineer. The appendix contains reports of the several officers of the Society, as also lists of Donations and Members. Among the more noticeable of the donations is that from Dr. H. H. Miles, consisting of 160 specimens of woods, vegetables, fibres, &c., Canadian and Foreign. The science of Numismatics is not overlooked by the Society as may be seen by the list given of 64 United States Government Medals, recently purchased.

— "American Historical Record."—We have before us the November and December Nos. of this really valuable Record—the latter number completing its first volume. At the time its publication was proposed, there were doubtless many who entertained fears as to its financial success, and for these they may well be pardoned. Its success from a literary stand point was however certain when Dr. Lossing was announced as Editor. The encouragement given clearly proves the tendency of the American reading public to support all really able literary undertakings. The publishers sought to make it a valuable aid to students of History, and in this they have succeeded. They now promise still greater attractions during the coming year in the form of beautiful engravings of unique views of cities, and portraits of historical persons. The expense of publication will thereby be greatly enhanced and the subscription price will be raised to \$4 per annum, which is still a low price for such a valuable work. We call special attention to the prospectus for 1873, which we reprint from the Publishers circular, hoping thereby to induce many of our friends to subscribe.

— "The Quebec Volunteers, 1837, a Christmas Sketch, by J. M. LeMoine." This interesting pamphlet furnishes us with "some tid bits of information and gossip anent the stirring volunteer days of 1837-38." Mr. LeMoine has a happy way of expressing himself in anything he is called on to

consider, and the pamphlet now before us is no exception to this rule.

— *The American Journal of Numismatics* requires no comendation from us. Its reputation is now established, and the appearance of each successive number but enhances its value to the Numismatist. The October number contains a variety of interesting articles upon the American and English Coinage.

— *The Canadian Illustrated News* cannot fail to prove of interest to the Antiquarian and student of Canadian History. From time to time its pages have presented illustrations of points of historic interest and venerable buildings, which awaken many pleasant memories. These will prove sufficient to commend it to the class of readers referred to. The general reader will also find much to instruct and amuse. Messrs. Debarats & Co., deserve credit for there enterprise, and we heartily wish them every success.

Q U E R I E S .

Editors of Canadian Antiquarian.

I have in my possession a pamphlet the title page of which reads as follows:—Under the patronage of the Ladies forming the Bazaar Committee, is published this pamphlet on the Fossil Organic Remains found in the Rocks of Canada, &c. &c., Quebec, Printed by Thos. Cary & Co. 1829. This pamphlet is compiled from the 6th vol. of Geological Transactions and other works and was expressly and exclusively written in aid of the Orphans' Asylum of Quebec.

Can any Readers of the Antiquarian furnish me with the name of the compiler of this pamphlet ?

A.

— A Medal struck at the Musée Manetaine, Paris, has on the obverse a bust in armor. "Fr. Christ de. Levi. D. Dampville. P. Franc. pro. rex. Americæ." Rev. Arm with ducal coronet. "Ex. te. enim. exit. dux. qui. regat. populum. meum." Can any of our readers give us information respecting de Levi, or the circumstances which led to the issue of the medal ?