

MASON'S
MONTHLY
COIN COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 6. MARCH & APRIL, 1872. No. 3.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

Assembly Building, Tenth and Chestnut Sts,

PHILADELPHIA.

Bavis & Pennypacker, Printers, No. 23 South Tenth Street.

MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. 6. MARCH AND APRIL, 1872. No. 3.

EARLIEST COINAGE—METALIC CURRENCY BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

Since the time of our Saviour, says a writer of the *Hartford Times*, the so-called mania for collecting the coins and medals of various nations has existed, and will continue to do so for centuries to come. The specimens of a nation's currency, with various designs stamped upon them in various metals, give to the careful student an accurate record of history, and the pursuit of investigating something more than superficially the kind of currency used is a most delightful pursuit and pastime.

The pursuit of the subject of our own coinage is limitless and fertile, and justice can hardly be done to the subject in the limits of this article. Beginning with the Cob money, which was merely rough silver and copper made into all shapes and sizes, with a rude cross stamped upon the specimens, we have the coins used by Columbus and his companions. The medium used to facilitate exchange by the aborigines consisted of lignite, shells, wampum, bone, mica, cornelian, native metals fashioned into forms evincing a skill in art to which we are strangers.

Many of the specimens used present a striking analogy in form and design to the ancient Egyptian. These specimens are frequently found now upon opening the small oblong oval mounds of the Mississippi valley, and our red-skiinned brethren paid little attention to the Scripture injunction, "to put money in thy scrip," who furnished even the dead with the wherewith for the long journey.

The next link in tracing this subject is the Massachusetts currency, which about the year 1600 embraced the territory now the State of Maine. At this time, there was an active commerce carried annually on with the fleets which came from Europe for fish and peltry, and the natives were at all times ready to barter large quantities of skins for beads, knives, hatchets, blankets, powder, shot and strong water. The necessity of providing a medium of currency exercised the minds of the traders.

Roger Williams gives the following account of the money used by the New England Indians: "It is of two kinds—white, which they make of the stem or stock of the periwinkle, after all the shell is

broken off; six beads were equivalent to an English penny. The other kind is a black or blue shade made of the shell of a fish called *hens-poquahock*, and of this description three are equal to an English penny. One fathom of this stringed money is worth five shillings.

In the year 1641, to increase the facilities of exchange and aid the cancelling of the public debts, the authorities farmed out the wampum as well as the fur trade to a company. The company paid one-twentieth of all their peltry, and were also obliged to purchase whatever wampum was received by the College Harvard—provided the amount did not exceed twenty-five pounds at any one time. The Holland Ducatoon and the Rix Dollar were in good credit among the Colonists.

In the year 1650, the period had arrived when matters assumed a more practical progressive form, and in 1652 a mint-house was established in Boston, where all persons were authorized to bring plate, coin and bullion to be brought to the alloy of sterling silver, by John Hull, master of said mint, and his sworn officers. These deposits were coined into shillings, six pences and three pences, merely bearing "N. E." upon the obverse, the reverse abbreviations indicating their value.

This was acknowledged to be the current coin of the Commonwealth, and to pass from hand to hand within the jurisdiction only, and the mint master received, as consideration for his time and trouble and those of his assistants, one shilling out of every twenty which had been melted, refined and coined. These specimens were called in England "Northeasters," and were doubtless of domestic manufacture.

In the month of October, 1652, it was decreed that the type should be altered, on account of the entire lack of art and beauty of the coins in circulation, and the Pine Tree money was adopted, representing both the pine and oak tree, with "Masathvsets" and "New England" upon them, dates of 1650, 1652 and 1662 having since been discovered. So much opposition was there to the colonial coinage that in England a discount of one-fourth was made from its home value.

Little or no change was made in the currency for some time. A large number of experimental pieces found their way to this country from England and elsewhere, including the Lord Baltimore varieties, date 1659, the Carolina penny of 1694, the New England half penny of 1694 (which was a private English enterprise), the Louisiana coppers of 1721 (made in France), the Rosa Americana series—1722, 1723, 1724 and 1733.

In the year 1737, from all historical data from which we can gather facts, the first coinage of copper was made on this soil, and a voice was heard from old Connecticut, the first State of the original thirteen to attract the attention of the colonists to a currency made here, expressing something independent of King George and the King Georges. John Higley, of Granby, a blacksmith by trade, manu-

factured several dies and struck three distinct varieties of coppers, expressing his sentiments upon their faces, which were anything but dependence upon monarchial rule and mild submission to British oppression.

NUMISMATIC OCEAN SKETCH.

BY E. M., JR.

Previous to crossing the Atlantic, in the spring of 1871, I had the foresight to secure from the United States Mint one hundred and twenty-five large and small proof sets of the coinage of that year. It was our intention, upon journeying through Europe, to make use of these sets, as a medium of exchange, in obtaining the proof sets of the coinage of the various European mints. Upon arriving on board of the steamer City of London, in New York, and noticing the quantity of passengers who were to be my companions, it occurred to me that many of these proof sets might be disposed of to advantage on the voyage, naturally presuming that Americans visiting foreign countries would take pleasure and pride in possessing our country's beautiful coinage to exhibit to foreigners.

After getting well at sea, I put a proof set in each pocket, and, one fine morning, after breakfast, ventured on deck to try the first coin venture upon the ocean. Selecting a vacant settee beneath an awning, where a small portion of the passengers were quietly seated, conversing upon the sea and its surroundings, I opened one of the bright glistening proof sets, taking care to display the pieces upon a nice clean sheet of white paper spread out ostentatiously over the settee. It was not long before a tall, dark-complexioned gentleman, dressed in a mantle of black broadcloth, approached, took a seat and gazed inquiringly upon the coins. I opened with: "Beautiful coins we have in America. I have a complete set, fresh from the dies; never circulated, see: here is the silver dollar, half, quarter, dime, half dime, nickel five and three cent pieces, silver three cent piece, bronze two and one cent pieces—making a complete set of ten pieces, embracing all the silver and base coinage of the United States government in use at the present time."

The black-mantled fellow passenger arose from his seat, smiled, took out a well-filled purse and commenced fumbling around among some gold and silver coins. Here, thought I, is my first sale. What shall I charge? fifteen dollars, that's exorbitant; ten dollars; yes, that is a remunerative price under the circumstances. My supposed patron interrupted my speculative thoughts by muttering some unintelligible language, and shaking in his outstretched hand four or five ragged notes, representing, as far I could ascertain, fifty, twenty-five, ten and five cent fractional and postage currency of the United States. I was dumb-founded, puzzled, and likely to remain so, had not an American gentleman stepped forward, as the other passenger walked off, and politely informed me that the latter was a Spanish nobleman, and had informed me in Spanish that I was a Yankee pedlar, and

that the notes he held in his hand were the legal currency of the United States, and not the pieces which I so boastingly displayed. It seems the Spaniard understood enough of English to comprehend my remarks about the coins, and could only do justice to the subject by abusing myself and country in his own native language. It was true, I confess, with humiliation, that the wretched, ragged paper currency was and is now the circulative medium of the United States. Another fly dropped down near our numismatic sugar bin, and, after testing the silver dollar by trying to bend it and weighing it from hand to hand, said it was "pretty fair imitated" but "too much looking-glass; peoples over de water see through him." It is needless to say this passenger was a Frenchman; but our turn came next, in the approach of an Australian, who was returning to England, after an absence of twenty-three years, and was desirous of adding to his stock of curiosities, among which, he informed me were "earth fish," dug up in his garden alive and wriggling, eyeless and scaleless, and a strange plant which grew up and blossomed out of the body of a species of caterpillar that burrowed its way into the ground in Australia; also, bones of a giant found beneath the huge forest trees of that country. In a short time, our Australian friend possessed a proof set of United States coins, dated 1871, and we clinked two beautiful sovereigns down into the depths of our *porte monnaie*; but, unfortunately for us, there was not another person on board, among the convalescent passengers, during the voyage, that had faith in our precious proof sets.

THE PAPER MONEY OF THE REVOLUTION.

Christopher Marshall, in his *Remembrancer*, then kept at Lancaster, has the following:

February 17, 1778.—News is from Philadelphia that there are one hundred and twenty-one new stores, amongst which is one kept by an Englishman, one by an Irishman, the remainder being one hundred and eighteen Scotchmen or Tories from Virginia.

The agreement to take paper money made by the inhabitants of the city was not popular with these newcomers and children of chance. They wanted good, hard currency, which they could take away with them in necessity. Their well-known desires on this head led to the publication of the following:

SONG BY FLIRTILLA ON THE AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THE OLD PAPER CURRENCY.

TUNE—*Come, My Kitten, My Kitten.*

Come, all ye good people, attend;
 Pray, hear what a newcomer offers;
 I've all sorts of good things to vend,
 If you will but open your coffers.
 Here we go up, up, up,
 And here we go down, down, down, down-e;
 Here we go backwards and forwards,
 And here we go round, round, round-e.

Here is a fleet from New York,
And here the dry goods shall abound-e ;
Here is both butter and pork,
And all just now come round-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here you have salt for your broth,
And here you have sugar and cheese-e ;
Tea without taxes or oath,
But down with your *gold*, if you pleas-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here is an end to your rags,
Your backs shall no longer go bare-e;
Farewell to the sneers of the wags,
But your gold must first take air-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here you have good Irish beef,
And here you have pepper and spice-e;
Here you may part with your grief;
For *gold* we have plums for mince pies-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here you have topknot and tete
Too big for a bushel to hold-e;
Here you may dress like the great,
And all for a trifle of gold-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here you have got catgut and gauze,
And cambric and lawn very fine-e;
Mits, hose and a thousand kickshaws,
For which let your silver be mine-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Here you have trinkets so fine,
And baubles to hang by your side-e;
Here you may glitter and shine;
For gold you may look like a bride e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Then spurn at the wise old dons
Who make for their paper a rout-e;
Here's goods for your gold at once;
Come out with your gold, come out-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

You'll ruin the land, we know,
By joining with what we have told-e;
But, since all your wealth must go,
We'll strive to encircle your gold-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Come! surely Joe told you enough;
We have all that you want and wish-e;
But, pray give us no paper stuff—
We come for the loaf and fish-e.
Here we go up, up, up, &c.

Joseph Stansbury employed the efforts of his muse in the same direction, as the following composition from his pen will show :

THE PETITION OF PHILADELPHIA TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

WRITTEN BY STANSBURY, ABOUT OCTOBER, 1778.

To General Howe, Commander-in-chief,
 To grant all inspired subjects *sure relief*,
 We, the subscribers, beg leave to Present
 This state of facts by way of—*compliment* :
 That long before the date of Whig and Tory.
 The paper money was this Countrie's Glory,
 In all our dealings did its value hold
 In fixed *proportion* to the coins of gold;
 That, when the British troops first took possession,
 It passed, as formerly, by our concession;
 That with the fleet came up the *merchant stranger*,
 Who, by refusing, brought *it* into danger;
 (Informed, perhaps, that still in rebel hands
 Lay all the mortgage deeds and mortgaged lands,
 And, reasoning thence, have so mistook the case,
 They hold the Money's tottering as *its base*);
 And certain *citizens*—we must confess it to you—
 Have brought their brethren into sad necessity ;
 That, if suppress, it may be mildly said
 We have no Medium adequate to Trade ;
 And if the army sell their bills at all,
 Th' exchange they sell at must be very small ;
 That *it* received the *sanction of the Crown* ;
 And many *friends of Government* in Town
 Sold each *Half-Joe* for *twelve pounds* Congress trash,
 Which purchased *six pounds* of this legal cash ;
 Whereby they have, if you will bar the bubble,
 Instead of losing, *made their Money double* !
 Then pity them—the widow and the orphan !
 Nor heed the partial Tale from Price or Coffin,
 That in the year (the famous) fifty-nine—
 A year which must in Britain's annals shine—
 The army, *wanting cash*, obtained the loan
 Of paper money fifty thousand pounds,
 By which their bills—that scarce a Man would buy—
 Advanced *fourteen per cent.* immediately.
 It's true the army now has cash enough,
 And *therefore* should support our paper stuff ;
 That a *large sum*, collected with dispatch,
 Lays in the Treasurer's hands to pay the *Watch*,
 Who will *not take it*, unless in the shops
 And market it will buy them food and slops ;
 Our patrol *therefore* will have *guns and swords*,
 Instead of lanterns, staves and empty words ;
 That if you will assume our load of *ills*,
 Our paper's ready to exchange for *bills*
 To pay our friends in England with your gold,
 And leave your officers our rags to hold :
 These, and *more cogent* reasons might be told
 Why paper money should be par with gold.
 We pray the General in a general way
 Would grant redress, and that without delay,
 And *value* give the *Paper* we possess,
 And then—we'll sign the long-since penned address.

THE TRUMPET RAT.

A curious lawsuit was tried not long ago in a French court, in which a new species of rat was brought into notice, produced by a kind of "natural selection" of which even Darwin has made no mention in his "Origin of Species." The following is a report of the case, as given in the French law journals:

The plaintiff, M. Triguel, charged one Girome, a retired zouave, with wilfully abusing his confidence, and cheating him out of a hundred francs. He testified that he was much interested in geology, antiquities and scientific matters generally, and had collections of fossils, medals, shells, rare animals and curious plants. One day, the defendant, knowing his tastes, called upon him and represented that he had a kind of animal which had never been mentioned by any naturalist. To the virtuoso's inquiry what this curious creature was he replied:

"It is the trumpet rat."

"What do you call the trumpet rat?"

"Sir, as the name indicates, it is a rat which has a trumpet."

"Where is it?"

"On his nose, like a rhinoceros."

"And you have it alive?"

"Alive and well. If you wish to see it, you have only to come to my house."

"Directly. Come along."

Being very anxious to see this strange animal, the plaintiff accompanied his informant home, where the latter produced a cage containing an enormous rat, very lively, and in good condition, which really had on its nose a slender excrescence about two centimetres long (two-thirds of an inch), covered with hair like the body of the animal, with vertebræ in it, and, curiously enough, larger at the top than at the bottom, thus being contrary to the usual shape of such protuberances. The plaintiff further testified that on asking permission to examine this phenomenon, the zouave placed the creature in his hands, holding its paws and head so that the trumpet could easily be scrutinized. To convince himself that it was no humbug, the virtuoso forced a pin into the trumpet, causing the rat to wince and squeal, while a drop of blood came from the wound. The experiment was conclusive—the trumpet really formed part of the rat.

M. Triguel, astonished at the result, and eager to secure the curious creature, asked the zouave if he would sell the rat. His reply being in the affirmative, the price was then fixed at fifty francs, which the collector paid without any haggling, and took the animal home. He called in his friends and servants to see it, and was delighted to find that their admiration was equal to his own. One of his visitors then suggested that he ought to procure a female trumpet rat, this one being a male. This idea had already occurred to the virtuoso, but, having seen but one rat at the zouave's house, he supposed the seller had no more. To satisfy himself on this point, he

went at once to the dealer, and asked him if it were possible to get a female.

"Nothing easier," was the answer. "I have written to Africa, and they have sent me many trumpet rats, of which I have two females."

With these words he brought out a cage full of rats like the one bought by M. Triguel, who willingly paid him fifty francs for a female, which he carried off, more enchanted than ever at the prospect of perpetuating the breed of trumpet rats.

Some months afterwards, a number of young rats made their appearance, and the plaintiff eagerly looked out for their trumpets, but could not find any. He consoled himself, however, by thinking that they would grow in due time, like an elephant's tusks. But, after examining the noses of his rats every day for six months, without seeing any signs of a trumpet, he began to feel considerably disappointed.

One day, while visiting at a friend's house, he happened to make the acquaintance of an officer who had served a long time in Africa.

"Are you acquainted with the trumpet rats?" was the inquiry which he made of the man of war, who replied—

"Perfectly."

"Ah! then you can inform me," continued M. Triguel, who told him his story, at which the officer laughed so heartily that the virtuoso began to think he had been duped.

On being asked to explain the cause of his hilarity, the officer told him that the trumpet rat, instead of being a wonder of nature, was an invention ingeniously contrived by the zouaves in their leisure moments. They take two rats and place one behind the other on a board, to which their paws are firmly tied, so that the nose of the second rat is close to the tail of the first. An incision is then made with a lancet or penknife in the nose of the hindermost rat, and the tail of the other is grafted on to it. The muzzle is then firmly tied to the tail, and the two rats are left in this position for forty-eight hours. At the end of this time the union has taken place, the two parts having grown together. The tail of the rat in front is then cut off to the required length, and the creature, thus docked, is set free. But the other is kept tied to the board, his head being left loose, and he is provided with food. At the end of a month or more the wound is perfectly healed, and the most scrutinizing observer cannot detect a trace of the grafting.

"This," said the officer to the virtuoso, "is what these zouaves do. The rats have no trumpets—you have been deceived."

These facts having been put in evidence on behalf of the plaintiff, it was urged on the part of the defendant that, though he had manufactured the rats in the manner described, yet he was not liable for deceit, inasmuch as he had not sold them to the plaintiff as rats *born* with a trumpet.

The president of the tribunal then said to the plaintiff:

"Is this true, M. Triguel?"

M. Triguel.—"You understand, sir, after the experiment that I made with the prick of the pin, which drew blood from the animal and made it cry, I had a right to believe that the trumpet was natural."

The President.—"Then the defendant said that it was a particular kind of rat."

The Plaintiff.—"Yes, without doubt."

The Defendant.—"In fact, it is a particular kind of rat."

The result was a verdict for the zouave—the trumpet rat maker—who seems to have possessed considerable shrewdness as well as ingenuity, and avoided committing himself in the sales of his wares by what the lawyers call "active fraud." The case, as reported in the *Gazette des Tribunaux*, shows that while the best-laid schemes of trumpet rat makers, as well of mice and men, may "gang aft aglee," yet they are sometimes successful in entrapping people by means of the cultivated tastes which would seem to be efficient safeguards against this kind of trickery.

HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

According to Le Normand, about the year 385 B. C., the substitution took place, among the Roman people, from a square piece of cast metal, that before the days of the regal period of Servius Tullius, had been employed as a weight, to a circular one, which was then first used as a coin. Its composition appears to have been an alloy of copper and a small portion of tin. It, as well as its predecessor, the weight, was called the *Æs*, or *Libralis*, and is stated by ancient writers to have originally weighed a pound. But Pliny avers that about the commencement of the first Punic war it was reduced to two ounces. There appears to have been a series of reductions in the piece, to the degree eventually of only one-fifth of an ounce. The heaviest *æs* that has come down to us weighs nine and a half ounces. Upon one side is represented the head of Janus with two faces: upon the other the prow of a ship and the numeral I, denoting the standard of value. There were subdivisions of this coin as follows, viz: The *Semis* or half, having the letter S to designate its value; the *Triens*, or third, with four dots or globules upon either side; the *Quadrans* or fourth part, with three globules; the *Sextans* or sixth, with two globules, and the *Unica* or ounce, the twelfth of the *Æs*, with a single globule. Various devices occupy the obverse of these several fractions, most commonly the head of Jupiter, Minerva or Mercury.

Pliny is our authority for the statement that the first Roman silver money was coined five years before the first Punic war, in the year 269 B. C. Greek money had long been the circulating medium at Rome as well as in other Italian States, but not until after the defeat of the Greek colonies, and their ally Pyrrhus, did the Romans con-

descend to imitate the silver coins of their now tributary cities. The Roman denarius was made to correspond in weight with the Greek drachma of the period, which appears to have been then somewhat reduced from the Attic standard. We usually find an X upon the obverse of the denarius of the Republic, to denote its value as being equal to ten bronze ases. There is the quinarius, or half denarius, with a V, being equal to five ases. Still smaller silver coins are also mentioned.

Pliny also states that the first gold coined by the Romans occurred sixty-two years after the silver coinage, in the year 207 B. C. The earliest pieces were called the Scrupulum, valued at 20 ases and weighing 18.06 grains, and its multiples the double and treble scrupulum. These were succeeded by the Aureus, which continued until the time of Constantine the Great, to be in its turn succeeded by the Solidus, and, like the Greek stater, was made of double the weight of the silver unit, and of the value of twenty silver pieces, being about equal to \$5.10 American money. Thus it will be seen that while the Greeks first coined gold, then silver and, lastly, copper money, the Romans reversed the order, beginning with copper and using silver and then gold at subsequent periods.

The relative value of gold and silver has varied in different ages, but more frequently in ancient than in modern times. Herodotus, in his *Thalia*, in estimating the tribute paid to Darius, calculated the relation to be as 13 to 1. This was about 450 B. C. Livy makes the proportion B. C. 190, as 10 to 1. Suetonius states that Julius Cæsar once exchanged in the proportion of 9 to 1, say at about B. C. 50. It appears that in the time of the emperor Justinian, A. D. 527-565, it became as 14 or 15 to 1.

The denarii of the Republic were issued in enormous quantity, the greater part of them being marked with the name of some Roman family, plebeian as well as patrician. Nearly the whole of this peculiar coinage is believed to have been issued during the period within fifty years of the reign of Augustus Cæsar. Many have devices commemorating events or legends in the history of Rome, and in this way numerous incidents and events connected with Roman history are preserved to us which would otherwise have been lost. Portraits, too, of their most distinguished citizens are accurately given and transmitted to us from a period of time that they could have been rescued in no other way. These denarii of the Republic, as well as those following after the establishment of the Empire, are possessed of great interest to the student in history, as the description of two of the former will give the reader an idea. One, of the Titurian family, represents the maiden Tarpeia crushed between the shields of Sabine soldiers, to whom she had consented to open the gates of Rome upon the condition that she should have the "ornaments" they wore upon their arms (meaning the golden bracelets). But instead of these, each soldier, as he passed by her, threw his shield upon her, thereby causing her death. The Tarpeian rock

near which the occurrence is located, is still shown the visitor to the ruins of Rome. It afterwards became still more famous in consequence of the number of criminals who expiated their offences by being hurled to death from its summit. The other, a specimen of which is now before me, has represented upon one side a helmeted female head emblematical of Rome, with the name *Læca*. On the reverse side is a quadrigata or four horse chariot, driven at speed; beneath it is *M. Pore Roma*. The coin is a denarius of *P. Porcius Læca*, a descendant of *Læca*, who B. C. 256, introduced the Porcian law, *de capite et tergo civium*, which was the law of appeal under which the Apostle Paul "appealed to Cæsar."

(*To be continued.*)

AUTOGRAPHS.

The passion for autographs is a harmless one, however absurd it may seem to those who have escaped its influence. Yet, without at all sharing it, every sympathetic mind can readily feel the force of this influence, and trace the source of the pleasure it yields to its votaries. There is a character in handwriting, as such researches as those of Mr. Chabot so manifestly show. In the loop of a letter, or the slant of a stroke, a skilful observer will find indicated temper—even the habits and mental constitution of the writer. Even without venturing into such subtilties, every autograph from a famous hand must have for its possessor a great and peculiar charm. It brings him as it were into the confidence with the great man who penned the faded lines. It is as if he were actually holding one by the hand, and speaking the very words traced on the yellowing pages. And when the autograph is the original copy of some celebrated book, the charm is proportionately increased. To its owner, thenceforth, that book has been written for him alone. He has become the intimate of genius.

To this pleasant and certainly inoffensive enthusiasm there was offered, at London, about a fortnight since, a rare and most delightful treat. This was the sale, at auction, of the private library of Mr. Richard Bentley, the publisher, lately deceased. Since the time of the great Bentley, known to all the literary world for the daring ingenuity of his emendations of classic authors, and the frequent absurdities of his critical conjectures on the poets of his own land, the name has only been associated with letters. The publisher, just dead, issued the work of many of the most famous English writers of recent times, and his collection embraced many original manuscripts of works that are now household words. Among these were three quarto volumes, handsomely bound in Russia leather, and inscribed "*Harold*," being the copy, just as it came from the author's own hand, of Lord Lytton's romance. Many of Cooper's novels were there also, "interleaved with emendations in the author's hand." Dickens, Mrs. Inchbald, Albert Smith, that almost forgotten poet Hayley, and many another writer, memorable or obscure, contributed to this unusual collection of autographs.

What were the prices brought by these precious words we do not know. No doubt they sold pretty much as the printed impressions which satisfy ordinary people, and the chirography of Dickens or Cooper or Lord Lytton was found to be more valuable than that of Mrs. Inchbald or poor forgotten Hayley. But there is as little doubt that not a few who read these lines would gladly have been the highest bidders for the curiosities of this unique collection. We condole with their affliction, yet we trust it may be long before any eminent publisher of our own land shall afford a consolation in kind. *N. Y. Times.*

COIN CABINETS.

With cost and dimensions; also the best method of preserving coins and medals, with a description of some of the best cabinets in the United States.

BY E. M., JR.

(Continued from December No., 1871.)

Cabinets are manufactured from various woods. Pine, poplar, maple, rosewood, black walnut and mahogany being the principal materials employed. Choice is now conceded to black walnut, although rosewood excels it in beauty. If black walnut is not thoroughly seasoned, it is not fit for cabinet uses. This objection to walnut holds good of other woods, but the former requires the most careful preparation and a longer time in seasoning to be fit for drawers, doors and ornaments. Dr. M. W. Dickeson, of this city, designed the most expensive cabinet known to coin collectors, composed of iron, built in the style of iron safes, nearly square at the sides, and much higher than the ordinary safes. The top of this cabinet was covered with white marble, and as a cabinet safe, in so far as security from loss was concerned, unobjectionable; yet we question whether the coins would remain perfectly dry in an enclosed iron box. For ingenuity of construction, Lyman Wilder, of Hoosick Falls, N. Y., takes the premium on cabinets, a description of which will appear further on.

The cost of a coin cabinet is a serious drawback to the collector of limited means, where beauty as well as durability should be a point well considered in its construction. A fine, well-finished cabinet adapted to a collection of two thousand pieces—coins and medals—would cost, properly made, from fifty to seventy-five dollars, according to elaboration of finish, etc. The proper material for lining drawers has been a serious difficulty with collectors. All kinds of woolen, cotton, silken and mixed clothes have been tried unsuccessfully, owing to the different dyes and preparations used in their manufacture. From a long experience, we are inclined to favor white blotting pad paper or, better yet, the thick white paper used by druggists, which is free from chemicals. Coins in proof condition can lay for years upon the latter material without discoloration or injury.

It is always very necessary to keep coins in a dry, airy room, more

especially proof pieces, which tarnish where gas escapes from pipes or furnaces into the room. By observing this rule, the natural bronze color—a beautiful light olive—will in time spread over the coin, adding to its value and condition. Dampness should be avoided, and all brimstone matches or india rubber removed from possibility of contact with coins. Perspiration will quickly tarnish a coin. This fact should be borne in mind by those in the habit of carrying coins about their person. Never handle fine pieces carelessly, as the slightest finger marks on the surface of a bright coin will damage it considerably. Always instruct novices to take a piece between the thumb and first two fingers, thus holding it up by the edge—protecting from moisture of the fingers the obverse and reverse surfaces of the coin, and allowing it to be turned from side to side readily without injury.

We propose now to treat of the different cabinets of well known collectors, not in the order of cost and beauty, but just as we receive information and from notes derived from personal examination taken down on the spot.

WILLIAM CLOGSTON'S CABINET, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

This cabinet is made of rosewood, 5 feet 2 inches in height, round corners, panelled and beaded, divided in 2 cases. The lower or larger case has 14 drawers 17 inches wide, 25 inches long, double doors closing and locking over the drawers; upper and smaller case, 8 drawers 12 inches wide, 16 inches long, 1 inch deep, closing doors. The two lower drawers in the large cabinet are 2 inches deep, intended for medals, leaving 12 drawers 1 inch deep for coins.

The cabinet is ornamented with a square top piece, handsomely paneled. The drawers are not partitioned off, as is usual in cabinets. Blotting pad lining for coins and medals to rest upon. Mr. Clogston's cabinet of American coins is very complete, with the exception of some excessively rare pieces.

W. H. GREEN'S CABINET, TROY, N. Y.

Arrangement: 1 open front box, with trays for coins, black walnut front, with fall-like desk. 1 drawer in secretary, with fall front, mahogany trays, velvet lined, size about 32 by 18 inches; spaces for coins formed by crossing the velvet with silk cord at right angles, tacked at each intersection, which leaves a square space for each coin. 1 black walnut frame for American cents, circular opening for each coin in a cardboard, faced with black velvet.

American cents, complete. Second set, with varieties. American half cents, incomplete. American silver half dollars. American silver quarter dollars. American silver dimes and half dimes. English silver and copper coins. English colonials. Foreign coins of all nations in silver and copper. Colonial and Washington cents and tokens. Partial set of English and American gold coins. Large variety of store cards, large and small sizes. Silver and bronze medals.

LYMAN WILDER'S COIN CABINET, HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y.

My coin cabinet is in every part original with me, and made under my own supervision, in my own shop without regard to expense. I am not indebted to any one for anything, whether for or against it. Outside measure, 22 inches long, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches from front to back, 14 inches high, all parts, as well as the vertical partition in the middle, one inch thick, composed of thin stuff, glued up with grain running crossways, to prevent warping or springing. It contains 58 slide drawers, in 2 tiers, which are $9\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches from front to back and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch deep, just as large as a heavy sheet of 10 by 14 inch tin would make, and turn up $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch on the sides and back end. These slides run in and rest on narrow strips of tin, made double and let into the walls of the case, which here project $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. The fronts of these slides are made of rosewood moulding and fastened on the upper side of the tin slide, and thick enough to fill the space within 1-12 of an inch, and are drawn out with a thin piece of metal, on one end of which is a spring which flies down when it is shoved in between two drawers, and catches on the drawer below. There are 4 drawers on each side, at the bottom, for medals, etc., $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch deep; all the others are $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The drawers are mostly lined with white cotton flannel, well scoured and boiled in soapsuds, to free it from any alkali or acid it may contain. The whole front side, which is mitered at the corners, lets down from the top with hinges on the inside of the bottom edge, which forms a table to lay coins or the drawers on. Inside of this case is all finished with rosewood, and polished. The outside is finished with bird's eye oak (the only oak of this kind I ever saw), with panels in front and on top, 13 by $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, of inlaid work, of rosewood and a hard white wood, containing 394 pieces each. The two ends are paneled with the same, $9\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, containing 288 pieces each. The whole is bound around the top and bottom with a rosewood moulding, and polished. I find the white cotton flannel, prepared as above, the best of anything I have ever tried to preserve coins bright, especially silver. I have many proof specimens of silver that have laid on it many years and not one has changed in the least. Copper coins will change some in any way I have ever tried. Each of the drawers will hold 50 silver dollars and about 75 half dollars, and from 95 to 100 copper cents, and so on. I have in my collection the following varieties, besides many duplicates, which are not recorded:

- 42 silver dollars, previous to 1804.
- 30 silver dollars, since 1835.
- 215 silver half dollars in all.
- 80 quarter dollars in all.
- 82 silver dimes.
- 71 silver half dimes.

The great proportion of the above are uncirculated, many of them having proof surfaces.

- 77 trial or pattern pieces.
- 140 pieces, all the proof sets since 1856.
- 404 copper cents to 1858.
- 86 half cents to 1858.
- 150 large medals, including nearly all ever struck in the mint.
- 230 small medals and medalets.
- 275 varieties of broken dies; 5 cent nickels, from 1866 to 1870.
- 150 English coins, silver and copper.
- 62 French coins, mostly silver.
- 56 Spanish coins, mostly silver.
- 50 Mexican coins, mostly silver.
- 56 German coins, silver and copper.
- 30 Italian coins.
- 60 Continental coins, silver and copper.
- 17 Colonial silver coins.
- 150 Colonial copper coins.
- 75 Portuguese, Russian and German coins.
- 15 Washington coins.
- 70 Roman silver and copper coins.
- 100 English Colonial coins.
- 150 various nations, Japan, China, etc.
- 32 English penny tokens, mostly proofs.
- 185 English half penny tokens, mostly proofs.
- 50 English farthing tokens, mostly proofs.
- 100 large store cards, of various metals.
- 250 small store cards, of various metals.
- 150 War and rebellion medals.

A large number of small United States silver coins since 1856.

155 Continental and Colonial paper bills.

24 Confederate bills, from \$1 to \$500; all of our postage and fractional currency, and room enough yet in my little *box* to hold 1200 or 1500 pieces more, take them as they come.

Now, friend Mason, I have spent one very busy day to get this thing in its present shape, and you are at *liberty* to *make such use* of it as *you may think best*, but pick out *such facts* as you may want or *fling* it all into the *waste basket*.

I sometimes make a piece of furniture or something of the kind, and get tired of it, but not so with my cabinet. The longer I have it, the better I like it. It is handsome, handy and keeps everything very nicely.

L. WILDER..

VANDALISM.

Numismatists, mineralogists, conchologists, autographists, and other collectors of scientific objects, can appreciate and deplore the destruction of the valuable specimens of mastadon, etc., which has recently taken place at the New York Central Park Museum. We have frequently been animated with a desire to punch the heads of those persons having an affinity to Henry Hilton, who sometimes for

amusement punch the head of Liberty, or knock a 9 out of the 1799 cent to make it appear more antique, or batter an uncirculated coin with a brickbat, from a pure love of mischief. Read the last act of vandalism, and contemplate philosophically, if you can, the loss to science, which the following article from the *New York Times* sets forth:

THE DESTRUCTION OF MR. HAWKINS' RESTORATIONS.—A *Times* reporter called on Mr. B. Waterhouse Hawkins in order to ascertain the truth of the allegations made in a communication which appeared in the *Times* in reference to the destruction of his restorations in the Central Park Museum. Mr. Hawkins stated that all he had done during twenty-one months to restore the skeletons of the extinct animals of America (of the Hadrosaurus and the other gigantic animal, which was thirty-nine feet long, was destroyed by order of Mr. Henry Hilton, on the 3d of May last, with a sledge hammer, and carried away to Mount St. Vincent, where the remains were buried several feet below the surface. The preparatory sketches of other animals, including a mammoth and a mastadon and the moulds and sketch models were destroyed. Mr. Hilton did this, said Mr. Hawkins, out of ignorance, just as he had a coat of white paint put on the skeleton of a whale which Mr. Peter Cooper had presented to the Museum, and just as he had a bronze statue painted white. Mr. Hilton told the celebrated naturalist who had come from England to undertake the work that he should not bother himself with "dead animals," that there was plenty to do among the living. This illustrates the policy of having such ignorant men as Hilton at the head of one of the most important departments of the city government. When the skeletons were dug up again, by order of Colonel Stebbins, they were found broken in thousands of pieces. Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, when he heard of this piece of barbarism, would not believe it. "Why," he exclaimed. "I would have paid them a good price for it." Mr. Hilton, however, preferred to destroy the work of the naturalist which has cost the city at least \$12,000.

OUR SECOND EDITORIAL TOUR.

(*Concluded.*)

"Christmas Day," in Boston, is somewhat similar, viewed by a stranger, to Sunday in a country village; and to expect numismatists to forego a good Christmas dinner, to "talk coins" upon such a day, is not exactly insanity, but undoubted evidence of a *want of cents*. We were convinced of the latter fact upon our arrival in Boston, while making an early call upon our numismatic brother, Perkins, of the Highlands. We approached his handsome residence in Thornton street with feelings akin to a burglar, wondering what we could make by such an uncalled-for, unceremonious visit at such an hour when children are usually diving into the recesses of stockings to bring forth the "goodies" contributed by the kind-hearted Santa Claus.

A knock at the door brought a young miss, who politely escorted us into the parlor to await the coming of our numismatic friend. While seated, our ears were greeted with the hilarity of children and others apparently enjoying the surprise of Christmas gifts; and, when Mr. Perkins appeared, we apologized for the intrusion at such a

time. We examined two of his Christmas gifts (one, a five hundred dollar piano; the other, a magnificent English Brussels parlor carpet), and withdrew promising to call after visiting the State of Maine, which promise we kept, and subsequently examined Mr. Perkins' cabinet of coins (see article on Coin Cabinets), and accomplished a trade satisfactory to both parties. From Thornton street to Boston proper the transition is by horse cars, a distance of a mile or two, and we were therefore not long in entering No. 240 Washington street, Boston, where we had the pleasure of an interview with S. S. Crosby, of colonial fame. By this, we do not mean that friend Crosby served his youthful years in defence of the American colonies, but that his hobby—his particular numismatic love—is American colonial coins. Crosby, Morse & Foss, dealers in gold and silver ware and jewelry, have an establishment in Boston that rather startled us, accustomed as we were to gaze upon the display in the jewelry line of our own Philadelphia Bailey and the renowned Ball, Black & Co., of our sister city, New York. Gold and silver everywhere surrounded us in the store where Mr. Crosby holds forth. Long lines of costly plate glass cases, filled with the choicest jewelry and wares of the costliest materials, lined the capacious establishment; while the walls were shelved and cased and filled with clocks, vases, tea sets, etc. One clock, by which watches are timed, we believe cost two thousand dollars. In a beautifully adorned rear store room or rather a parlor sales room, crammed with gold and silver ware, we had the exquisite pleasure of inspecting Mr. Crosby's fine cabinet of colonial coins. We do not wish to anticipate the facts concerning varieties of coinage, which will shortly appear in Crosby's work on the "Colonial Coins of America," or we might say there was in the collection such and such a Massachusetts piece, or a peculiar Fugio copper, or a unique silver Wood Farthing, or an excessively rare Mark Newby piece in silver; but we will let Mr. Crosby tell the historical portion of our country's early coinage and its varieties in his own way, only hoping that we may have the privilege of inserting a description of his collection of coins, etc., in our "Coin Cabinet" article, elsewhere published in this issue.

From Crosby's to friend Woodward's, Boston Highlands, where we had a peep at a handsome Christmas tree, but found our numismatic friend too busy with his family presents to devote any time to coin matters, and left Boston for Portland, Maine, spending a short time in the latter city and vicinity among the collectors. How changed was Portland! Being a native of that city, and not having visited it for upwards of twenty years, we were astonished at its appearance. Vainly we paced Congress street up and down—the old familiar spots had disappeared. The beautiful little cottages that here and there were ensconced among the gardens that formerly faced this street have been metamorphosed into large solid red brick buildings, coming out flush to the inner line of the sidewalk and looming up with all the bigness and importance of the greater cities of our country.

Scenes of our youth no more to be *seen*, all our childhood's days and sunny hours which frequently repassed in dreams, at and after maturity, leaving certain fixed locations and facts like farm houses, barns, meadows, sweethearts, snow hills, sleds, sleigh rides, berrying parties, the ball playing over big and little fields, the "Tiding men," church and Sunday school, sand pies, sogering, swimming, pond, etc., all obliterated—wiped out. Congress street, Pleasant street, Fore street, "Clay Cove" and "Pooduck," alas! we know you not. We tried to muster up courage to visit some of the companions of our youthful days, but we thought if the city had changed so that we could not recognize the little spots that nestled so long green in our memory, the people, too, had thrown off the habiliments and recollections of youth, and it was useless to revive what only produced sadness and regret. We called upon the collectors of Portland, made some very fair exchanges, examined Payson's handsome collection of United States gold coin in the bank on Exchange street, and returned to Boston. Visited Chestnut Hill reservoir by invitation of W. Elliot Woodward, whose fine team threw the mud on the more pretending nags and soon left them in the distance. But what has this to do with coins? Nothing, particular, and we will sum up by saying that our trip enabled us to collect items concerning coin cabinets and coins that will in due time appear in our magazine, and this shall be the reward of those who expect great results from our travels in aid of the coin trade.

HOW TO MAKE QUARTERS OUT OF DIMES.

We find the following "little folks story" in the *Cairo (Illinois) Bulletin*, and would remark, in transferring it to our pages, that all quarters made in the way therein described will "pass" readily, without fear of having them returned. Patent, we presume, has not been applied for.

"A lad nearly ten years old cried his eyes out, the other afternoon, at the trick of the passenger train locomotive. The lad had a nice bright silver ten cent piece, and was of the opinion that the weight of the locomotive would spread it out to the dimensions of a quarter. He laid it on the rail in advance of the train and waited the result. The locomotive soon came thundering along, picked up the dime on one of its wheels and flung it, nobody knows whither. The boy bellowed most heartily, and is firmly convinced that the Illinois Central is by odds the meanest railroad of which he has any knowledge."

NUMISMATIC ERRORS.

The following additional lots in the printed price list of the Clay sale, issued by the New England Numismatic Society, Boston, are furnished by William Poillon, of New York, and found upon examination, to be as stated: Lot 375 should be 1 cent; 376 to 381 should be 1 cent each; 742 should be \$1 25; 755 should be 50 cents; 784 should be 15 cents; 785 should be 62 cents; 786 should be 50 cents; 787 should be 65 cents; 855 should be \$34; 1334 should be \$3 25.

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

The following additional particulars of the treasure trove story, we copy from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 25, 1872. Our readers must form their own conclusion, as we have not been able to get at the correct details. We have seen the gold pieces and know that they were found as stated, but we think a thousand dollars would cover the find:

The excitement on North Second street, in the neighborhood of the establishment of Croft, Wilbur & Co., where the gold discovery was made on Monday afternoon, continued yesterday, and the place was visited by large numbers of people, who inspected carefully a few of the pieces which were placed in the jewelry store window two doors above.

A number of connoisseurs in coin matters inspected the specimens, and pronounced them to be very valuable, expressing the opinion that the lot would be worth, if it could be brought together, at least twenty-five thousand dollars. The pieces are, however, scattered about among so many different parties that it is difficult to tell how many of them there were altogether. One man, who drove a cart, is said to have thirty in his possession, and several boys have a large number. Now, that they have ascertained the real value of the treasure, they are unwilling to part with it for any considerable sum.

When the discovery was first made, the boys were disposed to treat the precious coins with contempt, and shied a few pieces at one another, under the impression that they were brass. It was not until they began to get into communication with the jewelry store that they appreciated the value of the discovery. It is very doubtful if this treasure was placed there by a collector of coins, and if so, he must have been a collector of ancient date. If he had been a modern curiosity hunter, he would have had at least a few coins of later date than those found.

The impression of those who reside about the premises is that the coins were deposited there for safety by some of the early settlers who came over under William Penn. This idea was indorsed, yesterday, by a gentleman well versed in coin matters, and is sustained by the fact that many of the coins bear the image of Charles the Second, and are dated at the time of the early settlement by Penn and his successors.

The mysterious package of money was buried at least ten feet below the level of the street, and immediately under an old-fashioned hearth stone. As to how it came to be deposited there and lost sight of, of course there can be no answer given but speculation, and a fine groundwork for the formation of a story is offered. The owner may have been a miser, who stored away his treasures and died, or a murder may have taken place, and so on through the long catalogue of possibilities. At any rate, the mystery surrounding the discovery lends it additional interest.

The pile of sand which came from the cellar was left in the street, yesterday morning, and was pretty well "gone through" with as early as nine o'clock. A crowd of about fifty boys and men congregated in the vicinity and the sand pile was thoroughly sifted. Only one coin, worth about ten dollars, was found. One or two small pieces were picked up during the forenoon in the cellar.

A reporter of the *Inquirer* inspected, yesterday, several of the oldest coins. They appear to be very old and are of pure metal. Some of them have had the edges trimmed down until they are of the same thickness as the larger coins. It was suggested as an explanation of this, yesterday, that the coins were probably in use in this country when the circulating medium was scarce and change could not be made, so that cutting down the coins was adopted as an expedient.

The oldest coin of the lot, the date of which can be deciphered, bears the figures 1603. It has the image of some king upon the face, and around the edge the letters "F. R. E. T. Nav. Rex." On the reverse are four "L's" and an "A" in the centre. One dated 1696 is similarly inscribed. One dated 1720 has a Maltese cross and the motto, "In hoc signo vinces." On the reverse in a crown and the following letters:

I. O. O. N. N. E. S. U.
D. G. P. O. R. T. A. L.
G. R. E. X. 4000.

Another coin of very ancient pattern has the letters "I. B." One, which appears to be French, has the head of a female and the inscription "Lud. V. V. G. F. R. et Nav. Rex." Also, on the other side, "Chrs. Regn. Imp. 1747."

The carpenters state that the building was originally a story and a half house, and the discovery has given rise to tales enough among the population in the vicinity to afford material for the construction of a dozen hobgoblin stories. One old woman has the story of a Jew who formerly lived in the house and died poor, but was supposed to have a great deal of money. Another has a legend that the place was once a camp, long before Philadelphia had attained its present dimensions.

It would, doubtless, be of interest if the Historical Society should appoint a committee to see if they could not, to some extent, unravel the mystery surrounding this strange discovery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BURLINGTON, VT., January 31, 1872.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—GENTS: Among other coins, etc., in my collection, I have the following pieces:

1. Two U. S. cents of 1802, without stems to the wreath, similar to that of your correspondent in the January number, but evidently not struck with a broken die. 2. One U. S. cent of 1833, struck in brass. 3. Three varieties of the Connecticut copper of 1787, and one with the head turned to the left, date not visible. 4. One copper piece (or medalet?), size 14. Obv., a man seated at a table holding a book or paper in the left hand, the right resting upon the book, with the forefinger extended. Legend, "Keep your temper." Rev., a full blown rose, with a snake coiled in and about the stem and leaves thereof. 5. One medalet, size about $12\frac{1}{2}$. Obv., bust of Washington (showing the shoulders). Legend, "General Washington." Rev., an eagle grasping in his talons, respectively an olive branch and bunch of arrows (3). Legend, "Inunitate fortitudo" and underneath the eagle the words "SPEIL MUNZE." 6. What I call a "Campaign Coin of Lincoln's re-election," metal, brass, size about $12\frac{1}{2}$. Obv., small bust. Legend, "Lincoln and Liberty." Rev., a rail with an axe sticking therein. Legend, "Good for another heat." It is the only one I have ever seen. If any of the above would be of sufficient interest to the many readers of your valuable monthly to repay for publication you are at liberty to print this. Hoping that I may be able at some future time to write something of more interest to yourself and subscribers, I remain,

Very truly, yours,

ENOS W. TAFT.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

J. J. Mickley, Esq., of this city, the well known, and, we may truly say, veteran numismatist, is on his homeward travels, and, if nothing untoward prevents, will arrive in this city in a short time after this issue of the journal reaches subscribers. Mr. Mickley, left Philadelphia nearly three years ago for a visit of pleasure and travel over various parts of the old world, and has visited many famous spots in Europe, enjoying social converse with many of the noted scientific men of the old world.

Our readers may have thought strange that the movements of Mr. Mickley, while absent, were not duly chronicled in this magazine. The reason is found in the fact that all correspondence has been confined to his son in this city, and as Mr. Mickley, senior, intended at the outset to publish his travels numismatic and other events, upon his arrival home, we abstained from making public such interesting matter as we learned from time to time from his family. In good time, we hope to be able to place before our readers some interesting matter concerning the numismatic experiences of brother Mickley, during three years' travel upon the other side of the big salt pond.

NEW PRESIDENTIAL MINT MEDAL.

The United States mint has issued an Indian Peace Presidential medal, that for beauty of design excels all previous medals that have emanated from the mint. It is of bronze, size 40. Obverse, bust of President Grant. Beneath the bust, at the left, is the calumet; at the right, an olive branch. Legend, "United States of America. Liberty, Justice and Equality." Around the border, "Let Us Have Peace." Occupying a space of nearly a quarter of an inch is alternately and beautifully arranged laurel garlands and shields, adding greatly to the appearance of the medal. Reverse, globe, Holy Bible and agricultural implements, handsomely grouped, the globe standing out in bold relief. Legend, "On Earth Peace. Good Will Toward Men. 1871." A series of stars, representing the number of States, around the border. This medal will be sent to our patrons, by mail, for \$3 75; by express, \$3 25. Address all orders to Mason & Co., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

A miscellaneous meeting of this society was held at the Free Library and Museum, William Brown Street, on Tuesday evening, Mr. H. Chapman in the chair. Mr. James Verity, of Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, was elected a corresponding member. A goodly exhibition of numismatic interest was on the table. Among the objects were—By Mr. J. Selke: A medal, struck in the metal from a gun captured from the French in the late war. Obv., the full-faced bust of the Emperor of Germany; legend, "Wilhelm Deutscher Kaiser Kon v. Preussen." Rev., a war trophy, surmounted with the crown of Charlemagne, surrounded by the names of all the German victories, with their

dates; legend "Dem Siegreiche Deutchen Heere." Engraved by "Brehmer L." Also, a medal given by Frederick William III, in 1801, to the survivors of the campaigns of Frederick the Great. Obv., the profiles of the five kings of Prussia. Rev., a copy (slightly altered) of Guido's Aurora and Pallas, with cornucopia and Prussia's shield, in a sitting posture to right. By Mr. D. T. Stewart: Brass coins of the Roman Emperor Claudius and others. Among the donation was, from the author, "An account of a find of Roman coins at Lutterworth," by the Rev. Assheton Pownall, M. A., F. S. A.—*Daily Post, Liverpool, January 18, 1872.*

THE MINT.

Hon. R. W. T ayl er, First Comptroller of the Treasury, designated by Mr. Boutwell to examine into the affairs of the United States Mint in this city, in regard to the management of which various complaints has been made, after several visits and a long and patient examination, having heard a large number of witnesses, will report to the Secretary of the Treasury as follows: "After listening to the testimony, I find there is nothing in the evidence which in the slightest degree impeaches the character of Governor Pollock, the Director, or of Mr. Snowden, the Chief Coiner, in personal honor or official integrity." Having for ourselves never doubted that the examination of this intrepid representative of the United States Treasury into the affairs of the Mint would so result, we are naturally gratified at this vindication of honest and good men against the persistent and malicious attacks of reckless and aspiring politicians. Governor Pollock, the Director of the Mint, has lived too long and too honorable a life not to be proud of this vindication of his personal and political honor.—*The Press.*

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. S. R., HARTFORD.—Money and coins received. Have no large quantity of the pieces you require in trade. The Jefferson cent is cheap at one hundred dollars; it being the finest in the world, and by all odds the rarest of the American cents.

C. C., LONDON.—Badly managed, or the result would have been more satisfactory. Send the uncirculated cents by express, at our expense.

S. S. C., BOSTON.—When we get any of the St. Patrick's pence, will forward. Subscription entered, paid.

J. L. P., BOSTON HIGHLANDS.—We sent you the two seven cent United States Postage stamps, as you requested. Hope to meet you in May, if not earlier.

COIN SALE.

Benjamin Haines' (of New Jersey) fine collection of coins, paper money and postage stamps will be sold, in New York, about the middle of April.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

It being the intention of the editor to visit various cities and towns in the States, and possibly cross the ocean, during the present year, the publishers have concluded to change this journal into a quarterly issue, combining, as we have, the March and April numbers in the present issue, and commencing the quarterly publication the first of July. This arrangement will enable us to increase our coin business, by frequent visits to coin dealers and collectors in distant cities. It is our purpose, from time to time, to issue coin priced circulars, thus enabling collectors to select such pieces as desired. We shall also continue our coin sales in New York and Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

A large private collection of gold, silver and copper coins and medals will be sold, at public auction, at the sales rooms of Thomas Birch & Son, 1110 Chestnut Street, in this city, on Monday, April 8, to continue three days, commencing at 3 o'clock P. M. This collection embraces some very fine American pieces and nearly a full line of the different series of United States coins, etc. Catalogues will be mailed in a few days to all our patrons. Bids sent to us will be executed at a charge of ten per cent., and the genuineness of all pieces purchased for bidders guaranteed.

TO POSTAGE STAMP PATRONS.

Our new circulars of stamps and new packet lists are out with an attractive array of new stamps and rare obsolete issues. Send stamp.

JUST PUBLISHED.

A SUPPLEMENT TO COINS, TOKENS AND MEDALS OF CANADA.

Reprinted from the second (copyright) edition.

By Alfred Sandham: author of "Coins of Canada," "Montreal—Past and Present" and "Prince of Wales Medals;" Corresponding Member of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society, New York; Member of the Antiquarian Society, Philadelphia, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

The Supplement describes a large number of coins and medals additional to those named in the first edition. It also contains facsimiles of 14 rare medals never before published. It is furnished in paper covers, uncut, and may be bound with the original work.

Price, 50 cents, gold. To be procured only from the author.

Also,

MCGILL COLLEGE AND ITS MEDALS.

Beautifully printed on heavy toned paper, with 5 pages of photographic illustrations. Price, in paper, \$1 25, gold.

Address Box 594, Post Office, Montreal, Canada.

THALBERG'S AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION.

Thalberg was a great collector of autographs, especially those of eminent composers. The collection which he formed during his lifetime, and in which he took especial pride, will very soon be dispersed under the auctioneer's hammer. The sale will be held in Naples, and the proceeds be devoted by Madame Thalberg, the widow of the departed composer, to some charitable purpose. The collection contains several pieces of manuscript original music, from the pens of the most celebrated masters, both Italian and German.

ATTENTION ALL!

[It is with pleasure we call the attention of our readers to the following article. The work described will be eagerly sought after by scientific minds, and we hope our subscribers will aid the new journal.—*Ed.*]

THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN.

The want has long been felt of a journal, devoted to records illustrative of the early history of Canada and kindred subjects, which might be regarded as a reliable repertory of facts concerning Canada, and might become the medium of intercommunication between students of history and men of letters.

This want the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal propose to supply by the publication of a magazine, to be entitled

THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL, which will be published quarterly, in quarto form; each part to contain 48 pages, printed on fine paper. Engravings will be given occasionally, illustrative of articles treated in the journal.

The editorial department will be conducted by a committee, selected from the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, who will exercise a vigilant care and judgment in rendering the journal useful, and to give it an intrinsic and permanent historic value.

The secretaries of kindred societies are respectfully invited to send a brief record of the proceedings of their associations, together with reports of any essays or addresses read before them.

In a new country, like Canada, where time is working out its process of destruction of historical landmarks, such a magazine as "The Canadian Antiquarian" will prove a most valuable medium for the preservation of important memorabilia, and the editors will strive to make it a valuable addition to the literature of the Dominion.

The first number will be issued in April.

TERMS—\$1 50, Canadian currency, per annum.

All subscriptions to be addressed to

R. W. McLACHLAN, Box 86½, Post Office, Montreal.

All contributions, etc., to be addressed to

"THE EDITORS OF THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN,"

Box 427, Post Office, Montreal.

PRICED COIN CATALOGUES.

Catalogues of any Large Cabinet of Coins sold during the past ten years in the United States priced, to order, \$3 00
Small Priced Catalogues of any Sale, 1 50
For List of Priced Catalogues enclose stamp to

MASON & CO., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

SET OF MAGAZINES FOR SALE.

Vol. 1 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, \$5 00
Vol. 2 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, 3 50
Vol. 3 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, 3 00
Vol. 4 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, 2 00
Vol. 5 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, 1 50

MASON & CO., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700 ; good condition, \$2 50
English Half Crowns ; old dates, 1 00
French Medals ; bronze ; proof, 75
Greek Silver Coins, 75
" Brass " 50
Roman Silver Coins, 50
" Brass " 15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round, 1 75
" Half Dollar, " 75
" Quarter Dollar, octagon or round, 50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces ;
1872 ; proofs, 25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1872 ;
proofs, 4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine, 3 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, fine, 3 00
Silver Proof Sets, 1859 to 1870, each, 5 50

MASON & CO., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CURIOSITIES.

The London Times in miniature—a photographic copy of the great newspaper—every word and letter distinct and in exact form and appearance of the original—4 inches by 3 inches. Every lover of the curious should have a copy. Price, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

UNITED STATES ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Complete sets of United States Envelope Stamps, issue of 1865, cut with wide margin, 9 envelopes, 3 cents to 40 cents, per set, free of postage, \$1 50.

MASON & CO., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.