

*Brawford 1703*

MASON'S

MONTHLY

COIN AND STAMP

COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

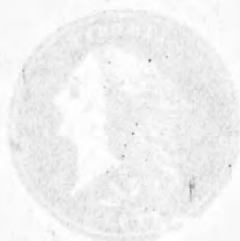
VOLUME V.

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MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
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MAGAZINE

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FOR THE YEAR 1913

# LIST OF STAMPS.

	Unused.	Used.
	\$	\$
Anstria Post Card, 2 kr.	5	
Austrian Italy, 1850, 15 c.		3
Barbados, green,		3
Barbados, blue,		2
Bermuda, 1d.,	6	
Belgium, Post Card, 5 c.,	5	
Brunswick, 4-4 g. gr., brown on white paper,	2	
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Confederate States, 5 c., small rect., blue,	2	5
Confederate States, 10 c., small rect., light blue,	2	5
Confederate States, 10 c., small rect., dark blue,	2	
Deccan, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red,	8	
Denmark Envelope, 2 sk., blue,	8	
Denmark Envelope, 2 without "s," blue,	5	
Denmark Envelope, 4 without "s," red,	10	
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Parma, 1852, 15 c.,		15
Parma, 1857, 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., each,		5
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Russia Envelope, 5 k., pink, . . . . .	10	
Russia Envelope, 10 k., brown, . . . . .	25	10
Russian Steam Navigation Co., 6 k., blue, . . . . .	25	
Russian Local for Kiriloff, 2 k., . . . . .	25	
Russian Local for Belozersk, 2 k., . . . . .	15	
Russian Local for Livonia, red and green, . . . . .	15	
Russian Local for Tammerfors, 12 pen., . . . . .	10	
Saxony Envelope, head, 2 n. gr., . . . . .	20	
South Australia, 3 d., blue, . . . . .	20	
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United States Envelope, 1865, white paper, 3 c., brown, . . . . .	5	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 6 c., purple, . . . . .	10	
United States Envelope, 1865, white paper, 6 c., purple, . . . . .	10	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 9 c., . . . . .	10	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 10 c., . . . . .	12	
United States Envelope, 1865, white paper, 10 c., . . . . .	10	
United States Envelope, 1865, yellow paper, 10 c., . . . . .	12	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 12 c., . . . . .	15	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 18 c., . . . . .	20	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 24 c., . . . . .	25	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 30 c., . . . . .	30	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 40 c., . . . . .	40	
United States Envelope, 1865, buff paper, 6 c., . . . . .	6	
United States Envelope, 1865, lemon paper, 6 c., . . . . .	6	
United States Envelope, 1865, salmon paper, 6 c., . . . . .	6	
United States Envelope, 1865, lemon paper, 10 c., . . . . .	10	
United States Envelope, 1865, white paper, 30 c., . . . . .	30	

MASON'S  
COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'  
MAGAZINE.

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VOL. 5.

JANUARY, 1871.

No. 1.

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THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.  
*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst,  
Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth,  
Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Amethyst, which has been known from the earliest days of Greece and Rome, and was employed for sacerdotal purposes among the Jews, is also a species of the extensive genus, quartz. The highly transparent, colorless varieties of quartz go by the name of rock crystals. The finest Amethysts are found in the cavities of rocks in Dauphine, Switzerland, Tyrol, the Pyrenees, Hungary, Siberia, Brazil, Madagascar, Ceylon, India and Persia.

The Amethyst comprises the violet blue varieties of quartz generally crystalized as pyramids on the exterior of rocks. The uniting planes of the prismatic portions are frequently marked by undulating lines, and all specimens, thus arranged, are now termed Amethysts.

This stone varies from transparent to translucent; is of a vitreous lustre; and on the same specimen is often a dark violet and nearly colorless. It scratches white glass, strikes fire with steel, but yields to the file. Under the compound blowpipe it parts with its color.

The blue color of this stone is belived to be caused by peroxide of iron. The German chemist, Heintz, found a very dark-tinted Brazilian Amethyst become colorless, when subjected to 250 degrees of heat, and as it contained, at most, only 0.01 per cent. of manganese, he decided that the latter could not be the coloring principle. From various other experiments, he concluded that organic matter could not produce the color, but that, most probably, it was owing to the peroxide of iron.

The finest violet Amethysts come from Siberia, Persia, India and Ceylon. The Scottish Highlands were formerly distinguished for producing the cairngorm, a highly prized brown or yellow species.

It is sometimes cut in the form of a brilliant, and when set is supplied with a blue or red foil in case it is pale, but when deep-colored it requires no artificial assistance. Though used in almost all descriptions of jewelry, it shows best in necklaces.

The Amethyst is no longer prized so highly as once. And yet, when large-sized and intense and uniform in color, it is greatly valued still, and well-cut stones of one carat are worth from three to five dollars, and so on in proportion to their bulk and tint.

The Amethyst may be imitated very closely with paste, so closely that the imitation is distinguished with great difficulty from the real. The artificial gem, however, is somewhat heavier than the genuine, on account of the metallic oxides which enter into its composition.

(To be continued.)

## SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M. JR.

NEW SERIES. NO. 1.

"Coincidences."

Coincidences have always been a source of wonder and speculation with certain people of superstitious instincts, and many of these wonderful circumstances that occur so peculiarly to produce a similarity of incidents are indeed remarkable. In conducting the coin business for a number of years, we have so often had occasion to remark the occurrence of incidents that coincide so strangely, that we have concluded to group together a few of the most interesting for the amusement of our readers. Upon one occasion, while engaged in the coin trade, a young, ruddy-complexioned, fine-looking man entered the store and, taking a box about twelve inches square from under his arm, requested to know if we wanted to purchase eggs. Supposing the youth to be a dealer in produce, we asked the price per dozen.

"They are not hens' eggs, they're birds' eggs," said the new comer.

Sure enough, upon opening the box, there was displayed, resting on soft cotton, eggs of every variety of size and color, some beautifully spotted and freckled, some white, green, yellow, red, brown; others exhibiting tints of cerulean blue; in fact, a representation of eggs throughout the line of feathered songsters, ranging from the size of a pea to that of a small-sized pin cushion. Snuggled in one corner of the box was a birds' nest, containing three diminutive eggs of the robin. How suggestive of roguery—not to call it by a harsher name—is the closing words of the last sentence, and this suggestion produced at the time the following dialogue:

*Dealer.*—"A robin's nest, is it? We have heard of robbing a birds' nest, and remember our early lessons of the cruelty of such proceedings, but *somebody* has taken nest, eggs and all."

*Youth.*—"Yes, sir, I captured that nest in a clump of bushes, and I collected all these eggs."

*Dealer.*—"Science has its votaries, and the latter find excuses, no doubt, for making forays on the poor birds, and snatching away the warm nests with the little embryo warblers, for the purpose of enriching their cabinets, but the cruelty of the thing is apparent."

*Youth.*—"Cruelty? I suppose you would call it 'cruelty' to kill snakes?"

*Dealer.*—"Ah! that is not a parallel case. Snakes are a terror to young and old, and the destruction of all the snakes in the world would never recompense the loss of one human being whose lifeblood has been poisoned by contact with the villanous vipers."

*Youth.*—(Mysteriously searching around the cotton in the box.)—"Now I agree with you, and here I have a snake's egg. Do you know I had an awful hunt for that egg. I travelled the woods, swamps and creeks for a whole day and night, and killed fourteen black snakes before I got that egg."

We gazed on the oblong, yellow egg, which our young egg collector exhibited, with a shudder, ruminating on the intellect and admiring the misapplied perseverance of the person who could coolly go snake hunting to capture eggs to captivate the lover of this peculiar science. Suffice it to say, we purchased the eggs and nest, including the ugly shaped egg of the black snake. Our youth left the store with the proceeds of the sale of the duplicates, and we had occasion to visit the post office on mail business soon after. In passing down Fifth street, below Arch, and while directly in front of the "Thomas Building," we were hailed by Lawyer T., who wished to enquire, if, in the course of our hunt among curiosities, etc, we ever came across a birds' nest. We informed Mr. T., that we had, not one half hour since, purchased the very thing he desired. Mr. T., promised to call and obtain the nest, and no doubt agrees with the writer that, in all his experience as a lawyer, he knows not of a more wonderful instance of a peculiar want so immediately and strangely supplied.

(To be continued.)

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(Continued.)

JAMES I, 1603.

*Obverse.*—On his crown and half crown, this king appears on horseback, with a drawn sword in his right hand. The other coins have his bust, except the half penny, which has a port-cullis like that of Elizabeth, from which it is only distinguished by the M. M over it. The half penny of his second coinage has a rose, without any legend, and the penny the same, but with a legend, and the half groat has the rose, crowned. The other coins have his bust, with the numerals VI and XII, six pence and twelve pence.

*Reverse.*—The reverse of all the coins of James I is the arms of England in a shield, except the half groat, penny and half penny of his second coinage, the first of which has a thistle, crowned; the second, a thistle and the legend TVEATVR. VNITA. DEVS. The half penny has only the thistle. On the reverse of the half penny of his first coinage are the cross and pellets.

*Rarity.*—All the coins of this king are common, except the half

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crown with the legend EXVRGAT. DEVS, etc., which is very rare. Those coins with the feather over the shield are not so common as the others.

CHARLES I, 1625.

The coins of this king are very numerous, and a full description of the whole, and the circumstances under which many of them were coined, would alone occupy a larger volume than this. Many of them are very common, and may be distinguished by the legend, except the half penny, which is without it, but may be known by the rose on each side. The pieces which are rare are the Oxford crown, with a view of the city under the horse, and the Oxford penny, the twenty shilling piece, the Oxford coins with marks of the donors, and the pattern pieces of Briot, also the Aberistwith half crown and half penny; but of the first three are by far the rarest. Pieces with the mint marks of a negro's head, a castle, an anchor, rose, heart and crown are rare.

The obsidional or *siege pieces*, struck by the partizans of this monarch during the civil wars, are extremely interesting, and, with the exception of those coined at Newark, are all rare. They may be known by their shape from every other English coin, as well by their legends. Those of Newark are of a diamond or lozenge form, some octangular, and others of a shape that would puzzle a geometrician. Some have the rude representation of a castle; others, a crown; and many have the initials, C. B., and the legend DYM. SPIRO. SPERO. The *siege pieces* of Newark bear the dates 1645 and 1646, but most of the others, 1645.

(To be continued.)

#### SOURCES OF DELIGHT AND AMUSEMENT ARISING FROM THE STUDY OF COINS AND MEDALS.

[From a work published in London in 1784, now out of print.]

The principal and most legitimate source of pleasure arising from the science of medals is their workmanship. The motives of delight, which owe their origin to the other efforts of imitative art, will here likewise, of course, predominate. A philosophic enquiry into the prime causes of our pleasure arising from art, though it would make an admirable subject for a treatise, yet were in this place foreign and impertinent.

Not to enter then into that profound subject, this we know, that the most barbarous nations are more pleased with the rudest efforts of art than with the most admirable works of nature; and that, in proportion as the powers of the mind are large and various, such, likewise, are the pleasures which it receives from those superlative productions of art which can only be the offspring of vast genius. It follows that the creation of art alike pleases the most uninformed and the most cultivated mind.

In that creation the skill of the engraver of medals certainly deserves an honorable place. The offspring of his labor, to the porta-



bleness and high finishing of miniature painting, adds the relief and expression of sculpture.

The chief and most rational amusement, therefore, which springs from this study, originates from the strength and spirit, from the finish and beauty, which the engraver has displayed.

But, besides this, there are many other sources of entertainment in the science of medals. Such is the personal acquaintance which, so to speak, it gives us with all the great men of former times. Nothing can well be more amusing than to read history, with contemporary coins before you. It brings the actions, in a manner, before our eyes; and we sit, as in a theatre, with the actors before us.

Portraits have been always very interesting to mankind; and I doubt not but the love of them gave rise not only to painting, but to sculpture. Nowhere are they to be found so ancient, so numerous, so well preserved, as in medals. For a knowledge which, though unimportant, is yet, to our trifling natures, most interesting, namely, that of the form and features of those whose virtues and talent almost surpassed humanity, we are indebted to this science only. Lawgivers, monarchs, warriors, authors, all pass, as in a fairy review, before us.

“The medal, faithful to its charge of fame,  
Through climes and ages bears each form and name;  
In one short view, subjected to our eye,  
Gods, Emperors, Heroes, Sages, Beauties lie.”—*Pope.*

We even mark, with delight, the surly features of a Perseus or a Nero, and the lovely countenance of a Faustina, though their vices disgraced human nature.

To this satisfaction we may add that of beholding, in lively portraiture, the various dresses, manners and customs, religious and civil ceremonies; in short, *the very form and pressure of the time* of the ancient. Medals almost present an history of manners, an article but very lately cultivated, yet perhaps the most useful and interesting of all the provinces of history.

For the ineffable delight which the sheer antiquary takes in any rusty commodity, and defaced medals in particular, we shall not attempt to account, but will leave it to any author who may, in future times, think of writing a much-wanted treatise on the diseases of the human mind. Certain it is that men there are of this description, who look upon coins as the most ancient, and of course the more valuable, because the portraits, reverse and legends are almost totally obliterated, or at least so far as not to be recognizable by the most plodding assiduity and forlorn conjecture. That exquisite device for a tattered banner,

“Quanto e piu lacera, tanto e piu bella,”

is their aphorism on the score of coins, whereas, to the man of just taste, the perfect preservation of a medal forms one of its principal qualities.

## AN ESSAY ON THE PRINCIPALS OF NUMISMATICS.

Numismatics is the science of Coins and Medals.

A *coin* is a piece of metal stamped by authority of some government or central power, making it pass current as money. The advantage of coin as a medium of exchange is its durability. There are pieces more than two thousand years old so well preserved as to show only slight marks of abrasion. But a paper circulation has its advantages, also; as, for example, that of representing in a small compass, convenient for transportation from place to place, a large amount of money. Numismatics has nothing to do with paper currency; neither with other media of exchanges: as cattle, produce, etc., which the wants of newly settled countries have sometimes required. Nor yet with metals themselves, unless coined as above stated. We read in the book of Genesis of the purchase, by the patriarch Abraham, of a field and a cave, of Ephron, the Hittite, in the audience of the sons of Hetb, as a burial place for his beloved Sarah, for which he weighed out four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. Bear in mind that the money employed in this transaction was not *coin*, but pieces of metal the value of which was measured by a certain standard of weight, at that time employed by merchants, and called a shekel, and at a period prior to the first issue of coined money by several hundred years.

The stamp made use of in coining is called a *die*. Most commonly *two* dies are required, and, consequently, two impressions, on opposite sides of the pieces, are thus made. The side containing the most important device is called the *obverse*; the other, the *reverse*. The space between the central device on the obverse and the edge is called the *exergue*. The prepared metal before coining is called a *planchet*.

*Proof* coins are those made from the original or master die, which is polished before using and struck on polished planchets. After a sufficient number of proofs are struck, the dies for coining the regular circulating pieces are multiplied by impressions taken from the hub employed in making the master die.

A *medal* is coined for the purpose of commemorating some event in history or as an award for personal merit. It is never designed to pass for money.

The *metals* which the different nations have at various periods employed for their coins are the noble metals—platinum, gold and silver—and the base metals—copper, lead, tin, iron, nickel and zinc—together with their alloys. The Russian government appears to have been the only one that has coined platinum money. They are of the denominations of three and six roubles—the rouble being of about the value of seventy-five cents, according to Webster, of our money—and was continued only a few years. Alloys with nickel appear to be a necessity; the exceeding hardness of this metal in its purity rendering it unsuited for mintage. Alloyed with copper or zinc, or both, the following countries have introduced it into their circulation,

viz.: The United States, Costa Rica, Peru, Switzerland, Belgium, and in 1869 Great Britain in her colony of Jamaica. Recently, some experiments have been made with the metal aluminum at the United States mint. In 1867, a pattern five cent piece was made in this metal. It, however, was not adopted by Congress, and, as it is alleged but a small number were coined, they are quite scarce.

The *shape* of the coin is mostly flat and circular, as involving the least amount of surface compatible with convenience in handling. This is not universally the case, however, the tempo of Japan being oval in shape; the itzebu of the same country is rectangular; the tekal of Siam and its subdivisions are nearly spherical, while numerous ancient coins depart from the commonly adopted shape, although less strikingly so than those just mentioned.

The *size* is commonly adopted with reference to the convenience of the public. This, be it remarked, is somewhat a matter of opinion. For instance, the Emperor Hier Fung, of China, caused coins to be made of the denomination of one hundred tsin, the weight of which is about seven ounces. The Roman *æs* is believed to have originally weighed a pound. On the other hand, the chuckaroon of Allahabad, in India, weighs but a few grains; a silver piece of the same place is still smaller, while a Siamese silver coin is stated to contain but a third of a cent in value. §.

#### DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

*To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.*

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

Cabinets of medals may be divided into three distinct sizes:

I. The large and complete cabinet, containing, or meant to contain, every issue of the mint, in every age and in every country. This, it may easily be seen, requires vast expense, and few but kings ought to attempt it. The King of France had the most opulent cabinet of this kind in existence, and which was calculated to have cost, since its institution till now, and when arrived at a point of perfection which it can but little exceed, £100,000 sterling. That of Dr. Hunter was perhaps one of the best private cabinets ever formed in this style, and is thought to have cost about £15,000.

II The smaller cabinet, the collector of which, confining himself to the forming of five or six sequences, as of middle and small Roman brass only, of English pennies, or groats, or any other particular series, considers other medals as out of his line of collecting, though he may purchase a few desolate ones, or belonging to other sets, to give variety to his selection. Such a cabinet may infer an expense of from \$1000 or \$1500 to \$5000.

III. The least cabinet, or casket of medals, which may include all little collections of coins, from a hundred to a thousand or two. In

this not above a sequence or two can well be formed; but the *amateur* pleases his fancy by the miscellaneous insertion of any article which curiosity, or other motives, may incline him to procure. The expense, of course, depends entirely upon the pleasure of the proprietor.

To begin with the large and complete cabinet, it is to be observed that, in the grand division of ancient coins, as distinct from the modern, the Greek medals, of every denomination, can never be arranged by the metals, or sizes, like the Roman; for no series of any one metal, or size, can be found of this class in the most opulent cabinet. For this reason the civic coins, of all metals and sizes, are digested in alphabetical order, and the monarchic in chronological. The same rule is to be observed in the Roman consular medals, which are arranged in alphabetical series of the families, like those of the Greek cities. Indeed, of all ancient coins, the Roman imperial series is the only one admitting of being digested in sizes and metals. And even from it must be expected the *quinarii*, or very smallest coins, which are so scarce that the only sequence of this kind in the world is that belonging to the King of Spain, which was formed by a most skilful French medallist, and consists of all the metals.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

NEW BRUNSWICK.

1. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, wearing an open crown. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA. 1843" Rev.—A frigate with full rigging, but without sails. "NEW BRUNSWICK, ONE PENNY TOKEN."

2. C. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do, do. "HALF-PENNY."

Bronze proofs of these coins are often met with, and are of the highest order of workmanship.

3. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to the left, filleted. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA 1854." Rev.—Frigate, as in No. 1. "NEW BRUNSWICK, ONE PENNY CURRENCY."

4. C. Obv.—Same as No 3. Rev.—do., do., "HALF PENNY."

5. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, "traped and laureated. "VICTORIA : D : G : BRITT : REG : F : D : " Rev.—Crowned date 1861 within a wreath, "ONE CENT, NEW BRUNSWICK."

6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. Rev.—do., do., "HALF CENT."

There is also a variety of 5 and 6, bearing date "1864."

7. C. Obv.—Ship in full sail to right. "FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION." Rev.—"ST JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK HALF-PENNY TOKEN." Edge milled.

8. B. Obv.—Arms. DEPOSITORY OF ARTS." Rev.—"F. M'DERMOTT, IMPORTER OF ENGLISH, FRENCH & GERMAN FANCY GOODS, KING ST., SNT. JOHN, N. B." Very rare.

(To be continued.)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." Addison.

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

*Coins of Aegina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.*

ASIA.

COMANA.

The shield of Minerva with the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—KOMANQ, Victory carrying a palm branch on her left shoulder.

PANAGORIA.

Head of Pan, to the right.

Reverse.—PA, a bow and an arrow.—Æ.

AMASTRIS.

Shield of Minerva with the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—AMAΞ TPEΠ, Victory carrying a palm branch on her shoulder.

SINOPE,

Head of Sinope, to the left.

Reverse.—Ξ IN, an eagle with a fish in its talons in the field PO.—Æ.

Some have the figure of Victory on reverse.

CHALCEDON.

Laureated with head of Apollo, to the right.

Reverse.—KA, a lyre, between two olive trees.

ASSUS (IN MYSIA).

Head of Pallas, to the right.

Reverse.—AΞΞ, a griffin—underneath a bunch of grapes.—Æ.

PERGAMUS.

Head of Pallas, to the right.

Reverse.—A figure of Victory, with a palm branch.

Some with this type have the name HEPTAMHN ΠN.

ABYDOS.

A mask or full face.

Reverse.—An indented square.—AR.

ILIU.

Helmeted head of Hector to the left.

Reverse.—IΔI, Minerva with a spear on her shoulder, in her left hand a distaff.—Æ.

SIGEUM.

Laureated head of Jupiter, to the right.

Reverse.—Ξ ITE, an owl full faced; on the others the owl is looking to the right.

TEMNUS.

THMNOC, laureated head of a female.

Reverse.—THMNEITUN, Fortune, with her attributes.

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### PARIUM.

A full face with the tongue thrust out, and the head covered with serpents, probably the Gorgon's head.

Reverse.—ΓΑΠΙ, a bull walking to the left.

Some have the reverse of a horse pacing.

### CYME.

KY,EIIKPATHΞ, forepart of a horse, to the right.

Reverse.—A vase with one handle.

Some have a vine stalk, with a bunch of grapes on the reverse.

(To be continued.)

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE SET OF UNITED STATES CENTS?

This query calls for more elucidation than the limits of a single number of this magazine will permit; but the frequent request from our subscribers to throw some light upon what constitutes a set of cents, has influenced us to open the columns of this journal for the publication of opinions of experts or others upon this vexed question. It is claimed by many able and intelligent collectors that a complete set of United States cents commences with the 1787 Fugio or Franklin copper piece, and embraces every known United States government issue of cents from that date to the latest issue of the United States Mint, including every known type or variety of copper, nickel or bronze. To our mind it is better to confine the limits of a set of cents to the copper issue of the United States Mint from its organization and first coinage (1793 to 1857), including, of course, all known types and distinct variations of coinage. By variations we should refer to the collection only of pieces struck by a change of either die caused by breakage, etc. In no case should cracks in a die form a variety, as this plan, if pursued, would lead to confuse the amateur and render coin collecting absurd in the extreme, requiring mathematical instruments to decide the length, breadth and position of a crack or hair line caused by some trifling imperfection of coinage. We have ample proof of this view of our subject by referring to a gentleman's collection, in this city, of pieces exhibiting a crack in coinage. This collector has gathered nearly fifty nickel five cent pieces, exhibiting an equal number of variations of these imperfections. We think the 1787 piece, although authorized by the United States, should be placed among colonial pieces, and the copper cents, 1793 to 1857, inclusive, form the first series of United States cents. Following this plan, the nickel coinage of cents, 1856 to 1864, inclusive, with varieties forming the second series; the bronze cents, 1864 to the latest issue of the mint, the third series, and so on with the different metals employed for all future coinage of cents. We should be pleased to publish the views of our readers on this subject, which would be a capital one for the consideration of a convention, which, sooner or later, must be called to settle the vexed questions of numismatology.

AN ECCENTRIC COOK.

There lives in the vicinity of Boston a venerable and somewhat irascible gent who enjoys the euphonious and appetising surname of Cook, who has a fondness for old boots, coins and a patent cement for patching dilapidated leather, and who occupies an oblong establishment on a retired street in Boston, with far too much frontage for depth considering the value of a square foot of land in the Tri-Mountain city, in which decayed boots with initial-chalked souls occupy the greater portion of the shelves and floor. This eccentric Crispin rejoices in the name of coin dealer, finding time between his half soling and cement patching to buy and sell old coins and medals; also catalogues and conducts coin sales.

Within his little four by sixteen feet coin and shoe shanty he has erected a two and a half feet counter upon which rests a case of coins. An upright case stands in the southeast corner of the front part of the store, in which medals, old silver spoons and broken jewelry are prominent. Thus our eccentric knight of the awl represents a coin dealer of standing at the Hub. At various times, we have had occasion to send this Mr. Cook catalogues of sales for his especial and pecuniary benefit. We consequently sent him twenty-five catalogues for the sale of December 21. Judge of our surprise at receiving the package back, marked "Collect charges," and the following little bill and letter, which we give *verbatim*:

BOSTON, December 12, 1870.

MASON & Co.,

To HENRY COOK, DR.,

to expressage on Package from Phila. to Boston,  
Recd. payment.

.50

MASON & Co., PHILADELPHIA.

Sirs—I return you herewith, by express, a Package of catalogues, which I make no doubt came from you, by express from Phila. and for which I paid the Adams & Co. fifty cents (50 c) for expressage.

You will please find the bill for the same enclosed herewith, and which you will please forward by return mail, and thus save me the trouble of presenting the same to the Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.

Very Truly, Yours,

HENRY COOK.

We immediately enclosed the sum of fifty cents to Mr. Cook, and now wish to propound a few questions to the eccentric gentleman for the benefit of all those who have dealings with this Boston numismatist and cobbler.

1. Is Henry Cook a coin dealer or cobbler?
2. If he claims to be the former of these respectable callings, is he dealing justly with his numismatic patrons by refusing to distribute the catalogues of a coin sale?
3. If a cobbler, is he dealing justly with his old boot and shoe patrons by neglecting a most respectable trade to inflict injury to the honorable pursuit of coin collecting?

But what *boots* it? Every dish must have a *cook*, and if second-

handed boot repairers have an ambition to become distinguished as scientific men, there is no harm in the luxury unless they overstep the bounds of fairness, and passionately commit some act which offends good taste and reminds one particularly of *leather* as ever and anon he scans the box toes of his boots and ruminates on the posterior protuberance of the offender, wishing deucedly to put *this* and *that* together as a reminder of grievances too patiently borne.

N. B.—We omitted to mention the fact that we sent the hereinbefore described a package of the catalogues of the Fewsmith sale, which were *not returned*. We learned from a correspondent that the Fewsmith catalogues were sold in Boston for fifty cents per copy. We put *this* and *that* together also, and our deductions incline us to give Cook a fresh start in the leather business, but age and ignorance should be *kindly* considered and we forbear, lest additional kindness and consideration should be misconstrued.

P. S.—Mr. Cook is politely informed that this article is not inserted as an advertisement, and if it has a tendency to increase his trade, he may be under no apprehension of a bill by express, marked, "C. O. D.," as we make no charge for this small editorial notice.

#### NUMISMATIC NEW YEAR.

The year 1871 opens auspiciously for the cause of numismatics. From present appearances, this year will be a lucky one for operations in the numismatic way. We have reports from various cities in the West of the intended organization of numismatic societies, and already an informal meeting has taken place at Cleveland, Ohio, with a view of establishing an association of this character. Cleveland has the honor of claiming a number of first class numismatists, who are devoted to the good cause. In our own city, a discussion has been in progress among several prominent collectors as to the feasibility of inaugurating a numismatic debating club, for the purpose of discussing doubtful points in the science of numismatology, comparing notes, weekly, as to the rise and progress of coin collecting, the exhibition of varieties and rarities of coinage, the detection of counterfeits, etc. In Springfield, Mass., the formation of a numismatic society has been warmly advocated, and we feel confident that this beautiful and thriving city can successfully compete, in numismatics, with some of the larger and more noted organizations in other cities. Springfield furnishes this journal with as many subscribers as either the cities of New York or Boston. The coin trade flourishes throughout the country, but more particularly in the New England and Western States. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been, for the past year, apathetic concerning coins, and, during the latter part of 1870, prices for rare coins have shown a falling off in these three States; but this has been compensated for by the great influx of new customers and collectors from the Eastern and Western States. We feel confident that, at the present state of numismatics, it will not be long before the convention of numismatists,



as suggested in Vol. 1 of this magazine, will be an established fact. If the various collectors in the United States could meet in concert and select a suitable representative to unite in a convention to be held in this city, we can collect contributions sufficient to secure a fine hall and furnish the lodging and edibles for the crowd. The usefulness of the convention cannot be questioned. We trust our patrons and their friends will take action in the premises and communicate with us upon the subject. The Packer coin sale, now in prospective, will be the first large sale of the present year, and we feel no hesitation in predicting for it an entire success. The coin sales to come off and the increase of collectors and institutions devoted to numismatics, will not only verify our predictions of the numismatic New Year, but prove this to be indeed a year of numismatic news and successful scientific results.

#### BOSTON COIN SALE.

On the 22d of December, a coin sale of considerable interest took place at Leonard & Co.'s auction rooms, Boston, a sale that exhibited an increased interest, in that city, upon the subject of numismatics. We learned, on the 7th ult., by a small paragraph in a New York paper, that a sale of coins would occur in Boston, on December 8. Not having received a catalogue nor any notice of such sale, excepting as above, and the time being too short for us to attend in person, we addressed letters to several of our patrons in Boston, requesting particulars of the sale for publication. In answer, we received notice that the coin sale was postponed from the 8th to the 22d of December. On the 19th ult., several gentlemen in this city were fortunate enough to obtain catalogues, but, by some oversight of the managers of the sale, we failed to receive catalogues in time to notify our patrons, excepting in our immediate vicinity. It was a little unfortunate for us that the sale of Idler's collection was to come off on December 21, and it became a puzzling question how to attend both sales with satisfaction to our patrons. We soon obtained a competent representative to attend the New York sale, and hastily visited a number of prominent collectors, and obtaining a respectable quantity of bids, started for Boston on the morning of Tuesday, December 20, visiting a number of friends and patrons in New York, Providence and Cambridge; arriving at the "Hub" in time on Wednesday to examine the collection of coins to be sold on the following day. We found several of the early numismatic birds on hand, who gave us a warm greeting, and without delay proceeded to investigate the collection exposed to public view. Here, indeed, was an admixture of foreign and American pieces. Nearly a thousand lots of coins and medals, from the early Roman, through the various series of American Colonials and United States Coins, Medals, Washington Pieces, to the latest issues of the different nations of the Old World. The more we investigated, the more convinced we became that the coins were of unusual interest and, what is of greater satisfaction, in fully

as good, and in many instances better, condition than described in the catalogue. It soon became a matter of wonder where all these interesting coins and medals came from. No one seemed to know the collection, and we were at a loss to recognise a single piece, until we happened to reach lot 715, the "Manly Medal." Here a flood of light was let in upon faulty discernment. We recognised the medal as one of the beautiful restrikes from the dies in possession of W. S. Lincoln & Son, London. Further investigation convinced us that the collection was from over the water, and, sure enough, the whole cabinet was the property of the above-named firm, transported to Boston for public sale.

On Thursday, at ten A. M., the second story of Leonard & Co.'s spacious auction house presented a pleasing sight in the character and intelligence of the audience collected to patronise this peculiarly interesting sale. We glanced around upon the handsome robust faces of the numismatists of the Hub and its vicinity with pleasurable emotions, and noticed one particular feature, an absence of youthful, boyish faces, such as predominate at similar sales in New York and Philadelphia. Here were solid representatives of the intelligence and wealth of New England, as fine and select an audience as was ever gathered together at any sale in America, not excepting the sales of the two M's—Mickley and Mackenzie. Among those present, we noticed Appleton, Colburn, Crosby, Elliot, of Lowell, Rhodes, Parmelee, of the Highlands, Pratt, Robinson, of Salem, Childs, Dawley, of the Custom House, Gillman, Hartshorn, Hart, Nichols, of Springfield, Ahlborn, Root, Barr, Fellows, Dr. Folwell, Wheeler and Powell. A large number of the audience were unknown to us, and, in addition to the buyers present, a goodly number from abroad was represented by the auctioneer. The auctioneer, Mr. Leonard, was in good spirits and full voice, and performed his part successfully for the owners, and to the satisfaction of the bidders. The only good, general outburst of mirth that occurred during the sale was caused by the uttering of a single monosyllable by Mr. Pratt, who had kindly allowed the auctioneer to knock down undesirable pieces at a rather high price, when bids could not be obtained. This plan had proceeded successfully with a large number of common coins, when a poor specimen of a New Jersey colonial coin was started by the auctioneer at fifty cents. Receiving no bid in advance, he called, as usual, the name of Pratt. The latter suddenly elevated his head, and, with an indignant expression, answered in a loud sonorous tone, "No!" rolling and lengthening out the monosyllable until the whole audience was convulsed with laughter. So unexpected and unusual was the answer, and so peculiarly indignantly uttered, that every person present, including the clerks and auctioneer, enjoyed the little episode greatly. The following list exhibits the character of the collection :

Roman Family Coins, 60 lots.

Roman Imperial Coins, 103 lots.

- American Colonial Pieces, 85 lots.
- American Silver and Copper Medals, 38 lots.
- American Silver and Copper Coins, 53 lots.
- Anglo-Saxon Silver and Copper English Coins, 198 lots.
- Maunday Money, 16 lots.
- English Silver Medals, 35 lots.
- Bronze Papal Medals, 62 lots.
- Cardinal and other Medals, 12 lots.
- English and French Medals, 11 lots.
- Fourteenth Century Medals, 13 lots.
- Washington Pieces, 30 lots.
- Admiral Vernon Pieces, 23 lots.
- English Bronze Medals, 57 lots.
- Miscellaneous Bronze Medals, 80 lots.
- Series Numismatica, 6 lots.
- Kings and Queens of England, 1 lot.
- Foreign Silver Coins, 11 lots.
- English Copper Coins, 26 lots.
- English Tokens, 9 lots.
- Provincial Tokens, 14 lots.
- Roman Brass Coins, 34 lots.
- Miscellaneous Tin Pieces, 14 lots.

The highest price obtained for a single piece was seventy dollars, it being lot 302, 1796 United States half dollar, described as "very fine," bought by Mason & Co. This half dollar is in uncirculated condition, and is richly worth one hundred and fifty dollars, it being, doubtless, the finest 1796 half dollar in the world. The next highest price obtained was twenty-five dollars for a United States proof set of 1846 (5 pieces), bought by the same party. The third highest price was twenty dollars for a New England shilling, bought by Mr. Pratt, of Boston. At the close of the sale, a small circular was distributed, containing an appendix of foreign proof copper coins and a few ancient British silver coins. This sale was the most successful one ever held in Boston, and will, doubtless, be followed by others of a similar character. We close this now too lengthy article by returning thanks for the warm reception and kind treatment we received at the hands of the Bostonians, and thank them kindly for allowing us an opportunity to secure nearly five hundred dollars' worth of the coins in the Lincoln sale. Not having as yet an official report of the result of the sale, we can only estimate it by our own catalogue, which figures up, in round numbers, one thousand three hundred dollars, or an average, for the nine hundred and ninety-one lots, of a fraction over one dollar and thirty-seven cents each lot. The total amount, counting separate pieces, is not far short of eighteen hundred dollars.

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**NOTICE.**

Subscribers who have not paid up will be dropped from the books.

## FIELD MEDAL.

A singular story is told of the reappearance of a gold medal which was made about three years ago, and was to be presented to Cyrus W. Field upon the completion of the Atlantic cable. Congress had appropriated five thousand dollars for the medal, which was of solid gold, elaborately carved and mounted, and inclosed in a pearl case mounted with gold. The Secretary of the Treasury received the medal from the mint, and sent it to President Johnson by his confidential secretary. The medal was missed shortly after this, and, upon inquiry being made, Mr. Johnson stated that he had returned it to the Treasury Department. Nothing could be heard of it at the Department, and it was finally believed that the medal had been stolen. Congress, therefore, made another appropriation of five thousand dollars for a duplicate, which was made and presented to Mr. Field about two years ago. It now turns out that the original medal was returned to the Treasury Department by President Johnson after he had viewed it, and the messenger gave it to Assistant Treasurer Tuttle, who locked it up in his private safe, and never heard the charge that it had been stolen, or of an appropriation for a new one. The medal remained in his safe until a week or two ago, when Mr. Tuttle inquired of General Spinner why Mr. Field did not come for his medal. General Spinner was greatly astonished, of course, at hearing all the facts in the case, and will retain the medal until some disposition of it be made by Congress.

## REVIEWS, ETC.

We are forced to omit several notices of numismatic, philatelic and other scientific exchanges. Although we have increased our magazine from sixteen to twenty pages, the pressure of matter crowding us and already in print precludes the possibility of inserting notices already prepared in reference to our cotemporaries, and other articles of interest to our readers. We intended to acknowledge in this number the receipt of all subscriptions to date of publication, but absence from our post for a few days and the unusual accumulation of mail matter has prevented. All our patrons will please take the *intention* for the deed with the assurance that, in time, all orders and subscriptions will be faithfully attended to.

## COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY SALE.

The sale of William Idler's collection, in New York, announced for the 21st ult., came off satisfactorily, the result being upwards of five hundred dollars. This sale will be remarkable for the high prices obtained for Continental and Colonial paper money. A Yorktown twenty dollar note, April 11, 1778, realized ten dollars and fifty cents, the highest price ever obtained at auction for a single specimen of the early paper money of this country. A New Jersey note sold for upwards of three dollars. The prices for other notes were proportionally high.

## SALE OF THE PACKER COIN CABINET.

Upon a recent visit to New York, Mr. Cogan kindly afforded us an opportunity to examine the collection of coins and medals formed by the late Ex-Governor William F. Packer, and which will be offered at public auction about the middle of next month. This collection embraces nearly every variety of gold, silver and copper coins and medals, foreign and American, ancient and modern. We were particularly impressed with the quantity of pieces in this cabinet. A large number of foreign silver pieces lined the huge drawers in the large case to which we had access; a fine lot of the United States gold coinage; a large quantity of medals of American series; in fact, the collection of these pieces is remarkable for quantity and condition. We have seldom examined a more attractive series of medals. The choice coin in the whole cabinet, in our estimation, is the 1792 half dollar, in copper. The condition of this piece is perfect; in color, a natural olive bronze; sharp, well defined and evenly coined. There are plenty of rarities in all the different series, but our columns are too limited to enumerate, or do justice to any portion of the cabinet. This sale will create a furore in the coin trade, and enable collectors to enrich their collections with many a choice piece. The value of the cabinet we should judge to be about equal to the Fewsmith sale of October 4. We were not a little surprised, upon viewing the United States silver series, to find it, as a whole, quite indifferent, and not what it should be, considering the wealth and numismatic fervor of the former owner. As we are limited to fifty catalogues, only those who intend to bid can be supplied. We solicit early applications.

## MULE PIECES.

If, in the whole range of numismatics, there is anything more annoying to a collector than a "mule piece," we should like to know it. Struck for no other purpose than to gratify a desire to perplex the amateur and to accumulate filthy lucre more rapidly than legitimately, they excite in our mind for the progenitors two feelings—pity and contempt; *pity* for the weak intellect that attempts to falsify history by the production of unique pieces; *contempt* for the motive which actuates the parties, viz.: *private gain*. We trust our government will prevent, in the future, the surreptitious manufacture of muled coins, and visit the authors of all such pieces with condign punishment. The proper trial pieces, or patterns struck in different metals, are all that we require, and the muling of the obverse of one pattern with that of a different one is reprehensible in the extreme. We have seen pieces thus muled that would puzzle the future historian to know whether we coined money for public use, or were engaged in an effort to produce enigmatical pieces for private amusement.

## WANTED.

A February number, 1870, of this Magazine. One dollar paid for a clean copy. Address, T. T. Bates, Traverse City, Michigan.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. W. T.—Did you receive the 1806 cent?

S. H. A.—The Nova Constellatio silver coins were designed by the United States Confederation, and struck in Massachusetts, in 1783, as patterns for dollar and half dollar pieces. There are but three known, viz.: the 1000 mills and 500 mills, with legends on the reverse, and the 500 mills, with stars in place of the legend on the reverse. The two former are in possession of a gentleman of Philadelphia and the latter is owned by a gentleman in New York. The pieces of this description in the Mickley sale were doubtless copies. These patterns were the first of the silver series ever struck by the United States government. The originals have engrailed edges, and ring with that musical sound so peculiar to silver.

A. A. W., CLEVELAND.—Pleased to hear that the numismatists of your city are about to form a society. J. N. T. Levick, of New York, can furnish you with valuable hints of benefit to your proposed organization.

R. M., TORONTO.—The 1804 United States dollar is conceded to be the most valuable American coin; but, in historical interest, the silver Nova Constellatio of 1783 far exceed the 1804 dollar, and ought to be of much greater value.

S. H., JR., BOSTON.—The United States mint has a very inferior collection of their own coinage, notwithstanding a fund exists to improve and add to the cabinet. Young men in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, who have had limited facilities and means, can show a finer set of cents than any the mint possesses. The difficulty seems to be in a lack of knowledge by the parties in power of the fictitious value of rare and fine pieces. Private collectors will pay fifty dollars for a fine cent that would not command ten dollars at our mint. The finest set of United States cents in the world is in England, where many of our choice coins find a market, owing to the obtuseness or indifference of the United States Government officers, who show no disposition, either at public sales or at the stores of dealers, to purchase or compete for coins that ought to be in the Mint cabinet.

To SUBSCRIBERS.—Our acknowledgments and thanks are hereby tendered to the following patrons for names and cash for Volume 5 of our magazine, viz.: F. D. A., E. A. G., E. S. N., M. L., A. M. W., N. R., L. W., L. P., J. H. G. G., H. M., G. W. W. W., S. T. (club of 25), A. S. J., T. R. T., Jr. (2 copies), P. B., W. W. S., L. M., Public Library (2 copies), V. R. A., T. T. W., C. K. W., W. F. S., J. T., D. A. R. (club of 10), E. F., Jr. (club of 5), I. I. S., G. N., C. A., C. C., R. A. M., J. E. C., G. M. E., F. J. M. (club of 10), S. S. C., D. L., J. H., W. P. C., H. F. A., N. A. M., A. H., T. D. W., G. F. S., D. L. H., W. S. L. & Son (England), H. P. A., J. E. R., T. H. T., C. A. V. S., A. H., T. H. T., J. F. T., J. L. P., Jr., T. T. B., J. M. D. Accept this general enumeration in lieu of a written reply. All others will be acknowledged next month or by mail.

**P. S. AND OTHERS.**—The only way to clean "old, black and rusty coins" is to boil them in oil and wash them in hot soap suds. Whatever rust or injury remains cannot, in safety to the condition of the coin, be removed. Avoid acid.

**HOFFMAN.**—Send on the naked bust for examination.

**N. A. M.**—Expect to reach a circulation of five thousand copies before many years. Not five hundred received thus far for the new volume. Thanks for your orders and clubs.

#### PHILADELPHIA SALES.

Two small sales of coins, minerals, shells and curiosities came off, in this city, at the auction rooms of Birch & Son, on the 19th and 21st of December. Both sales were well attended.

### Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

#### NEW ISSUES.

**COLOMBIAN STATES.**—The Bath magazine announces the emission of two values of a set for the province of Cundinamaica, one of the States composing this postally fertile republic. The designs vary slightly as in the kindred stamps, but show eagle, arms, etc., in a fancy border. They are rectangular, lithographed on plain white paper, imperforate.

5 centavos, pale blue.

10 centavos, red.

We have seen the 10 centavos, red, but the name thereon is not Cundinamaica but CUNDINAMARCA. The error is perhaps a typographical one of our contemporary. The statement of the existence of a 5 c. red is also probably a mistake in the September number of *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, as the editor quotes that value in blue only last month.

**ITALY.**—We are reminded by its fortunate possessor, that our description of the specimen of the 15 c., last month, was too vague in its character for due appreciation of such a rarity. It is more broadly rectangular than are all the current values except the 20 c., which it closely resembles "with a difference." It is on pelure paper and exquisitely engraved, the head of the king coming out much more distinctly than in any of the values. On the top, in lieu of POSTALE, is ITALIA; on the left, FRANCO BOLLO, in full, and the unused value below. One sheet only was printed, either as an essay, or by error, and thrown away for burning as waste paper, two specimens only being saved from destruction.

**ROUMANIA.**—An ugly impression lies before us, viz.: the journal wrapper stamp for the Danubian Principalities. It is larger than the current adhesives; printed black on thin green paper, so closely one to another that each band will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide only, by more than 16 inches long! Prince Charles's head in a central circle, with bead-

ing above and below, broken by POSTA and ROMANA, right and left, has DIARE PERIODICE in a straight band beneath. At each corner on the top is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  (bani), a waived pattern between, the same running up the sides, and the spandrels filled in with perpendicular lines. There are two shades, green and bluish-green. The 10 bani is now bright ultramarine.

SWITZERLAND.—In October last, took place the emission of correspondence cards for this republic. On the left upper corner is impressed a stamp, similar to that of the 5 c. envelope; on the right is a circle reserved for the stamp of the office whence issued. "Carte-correspondance" above; below, in German, French and Italian, this notice: "The reverse of this card is reserved for manuscript communications." Lower down, "Adresse—Indirizzo." The whole is surrounded by a floral framework, printed in color on very pale straw-colored cardboard. It would appear from the above notice, that printed advertisements, etc., allowed here on our cards, are prohibited in Switzerland. There are specimens in two colors and as many shades—pale and bright vermilion and carmine. The former color was used by accident, and the shades of the latter hue are now the sole ones employed.—*Philatelist*.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—This republic has changed the color of the one penny stamp from red to black.

#### UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

Mrs. S. A. Allen's Hair Restorer, New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.

J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., oblong, 1 cent, black.

J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., star, 4 cents, blue.

A. B. & S., Matches, oblong, 1 cent, red.

Alexander's Matches, rect., 1 cent, brown; 1 cent, red

Thomas Allen, St. Louis Match Co., oblong, 1 cent, green.

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, red.

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 2 cents, black; 2 cents, red.

D. S. Barnes, New York, rect., 4 cents, black; 4 cents, red.

Demas Barnes, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, black.

Demas Barnes & Co., New York, oblong, 1 cent, black; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, black.

Barber Match Co., Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue; oblong, 3 cents, black.

Geo. & O. C. Barber, Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue.

Barber & Peckham, Middlebury, O., rect., 1 cent, blue.

Bennett, Pieters & Co., Red Jacket Bitters, oblong, 4 cents, black; oblong, 6 cents, black.

Bousfield & Poole, Cleveland, rect., 1 cent, black; oblong, 3 cents, black, oblong; 3 cents, brown.

(To be continued.)



# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE,

VOL. 5.

FEBRUARY, 1871.

No. 2.

### WHAT CONSTITUTES A SET OF UNITED STATES CENTS.

BY T. W. T.

Conciseness in historical facts in any literary or scientific department is an object to be found only by a slow and tedious progress. Close observation, aided by a discriminating judgment, will enable an individual, if he possesses a cultivated as well as natural interest in his subject matter, to search out nearly all the hidden mysteries and minor details to a degree of exactness at once astonishing and incomprehensible to the indifferent spectator. Subjects, too, are often invested with peculiar intricacies which, to the superficial observer, seem but ramifications short, smooth, plain and straight.

Numismatology seems predestined to be a science dull, from its very apparent monotony, to the unpracticed, unskilled, nay astute person; a science in all its appearances to the uninitiated as easily acquired as any art; but a trial often imposes doubts in the result of the investigation.

The copper coinage of the United States furnishes a field at once fertile to the inquiring mind and it is the purpose of the writer—who cannot claim to be even an *amateur* in the science—to stop these erratic speculations and come, at once, to the projected plan of describing what he has found among the “coppers,” beginning with the “fifties.”

There are three distinct types of the United States cents of 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854 and 1855 straight date, each kind having a duplicate in each of the other dates mentioned. The marked peculiarities in these three varieties may best be brought to notice by carefully observing the figure “8” and its surroundings. It will be readily perceived that an ornamental *curl* (begging pardon for not knowing technicalities) nearly touches this figure (8): first—middle of the top part; second—back of the top part; third—between the other two. Not to suppose, much less promulgate, such a theory, it nevertheless might appear that one die only was used in striking the coins of these dates, having the date inserted by slotting, and bolstering or filling the blank not necessarily employed for the date. By continued strikes the date piece became loose, and new filling would be

required to tightly wedge it in place; hence it would unavoidably become moved from its former position.

We now come to the 1855's slanting date, of which there are two types; the last "5" in one kind nearly touches a star, and the point of that figure points directly towards that star; but, considerably different from this description is the other variety.

Of the 1856, there appear to be three varieties—one close date and two wide (between the "5" and "6.") The one denominated *close* is analagous to one of the before described varieties. In the wide, the upper part of the "6" is nearer a star and nearer a *curl* in one than in the other type; also, a curl touches the "8" in one wide date, but not so in the other.

There are found in the 1857's two varieties which are already known—the large date and the small.

In concluding this division of the subject, it may as well be stated that some of the foregoing described varieties are not so frequently found as others, showing that a few, comparatively, were struck.

#### SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

NEW SERIES. No. 2.

"Coincidences."

The coin dealer is often put to his wit's ends to obtain a coin for some special order, and it is not always the want of a rare piece. We remember on one occasion we had a mail order to fill for United States silver coins, and two very common pieces, the 1796 and 1797 dollars were wanting. We searched among the brokers, in vain, for these two dates and for one week used every exertion to obtain them from collectors. After repeated enquiries, searches and efforts of various kinds we succumbed to this ordinary difficulty and proceeded to write to our correspondent, explaining the matter and enclosing the money received for the pieces. As we were superscribing the envelope, a gentleman entered with a small bag of silver, which we purchased and found, to our great joy, among the lot the two dollars we were in search of. It was amusing to notice, for a week subsequent to this coincidence, how numerous the silver dollars of 1796 and 1797 had become. Brokers, collectors and others were daily offering them for sale. At another time our stock of 1856 nickel cents had given out, and, in fact, it seemed that every other dealer had parted with these little, but desirable, coins at the same time, for, try as we would, none could be had. In this emergency we concluded to return the money to our patron, when a collector entered and surprised us by remarking that he had taken an 1856 nickel in his store, in circulation, and thought it somewhat remarkable. We purchased the nickel, supplied a good patron by satisfactorily filling his order, and noted this incident as another occurrence worthy of recording among the coincidences of a coin dealer.

(To be continued.)

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]  
(Concluded.)

## THE COMMONWEALTH, 1849.

Of this money were coined crowns, half crowns, shillings, sixpences, half groats, pennies and half pennies. The first four have on the obverse a Norman shield charged with the cross of St. George, the whole encircled with two laurel branches. Legend, THE COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND. The reverse has two shields conjoined; one with the same cross, the other charged with a harp for Ireland, and the value above in numerals. The legend GOD WITH US. The others have no legends, but may be known by the numerals VI. II. I., except the half penny, which has none. All these pieces are common, save those with the dates 1658, 1660.

## OLIVER CROMWELL, 1656.

The coins of Oliver were the production of the inimitable Simon, whose works are to this day admired and prized. Some have doubted whether they ever were in circulation, but it is now pretty generally allowed that they were. The denominations are the crown, half crown, shilling, and sixpence. They are all very rare, especially the latter. Their obverse and reverse are all similar; namely, the head of the Protector laureated, with his name and style; reverse, the arms of England surcharged with his paternal coat, a regal crown above, and around the whole the legend, PAX. QVÆRITVR. BELLO., with the date.

## CHARLES II, 1660.

*Hammered Money.*—Of this, the second coinage, with the value and without the inner circle next the legend, are the scarcest. The half crowns of this description are very rare. Some have the numerals xxx. behind the head. The other pieces are common.

*Milled Money.*—The milled money of this kind is of a very different style, and has the head laureated. All the pieces of this coinage are common.

To the eternal disgrace of Charles, he encouraged an artist whom he had brought over from Antwerp, and gave the preference to his works before those of Simon, who produced in the year 1663, a pattern crown of most extraordinary workmanship, *on the edge of which* was the following petition, in two lines:

“THOMAS SIMON *most humbly prays your MAJESTY to compare this his tryal-piece with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully ordered, and more accurately engraven, to relieve him.*”

To any one but the heartless profligate whose portrait occupied the obverse of the medal, this appeal would have been irresistible, but it does not appear that the unfortunate artist was relieved. He pro-

bably died of grief and disappointment at the unjust preference shown to his rival.

### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Carnelian is a species of the calcedony, which is itself a subspecies of that universal mineral, the quartz. To the ancients it was known as the "sarda," for which name two reasons have been assigned, which we will give when we speak of the Sardonyx. The moderns have variously entitled it Carnelian and Cornelian—in either case from its red color, corresponding to the color of the flesh, "caro," and the heart, "cor."

The finest of these stones come from Siberia, Arabia, India, Surinam and Tyrol, though they occur in various other places in both the old and new worlds. It is found in masses or pebbles; is semi-transparent and translucent; and (what somewhat impeaches its name) is, in its varieties, not only blood-red, but yellow and yellow-brown. The jewelers prefer the dark-red and yellow-tinted.

It is used for seals, rings, watch keys, etc. Its color is said to be improved by calcination, and it is also said that the ancients boiled it in honey to heighten its color. On account of its hardness, it is very useful for seal engraving.

In regard to this stone, we close by citing an old superstition referred to by Nichols: "It causeth him that weareth it to be of a cheerful heart, free from fear and nobly audacious, and that it is a good protection for him against witchcrafts and fascinations, and putrefactions of humors."

From the best information we can obtain, Carbuncle was the ancient name for the now entitled in geological treatises *spinelle*, which latter, according to Hauy, is the true Ruby. As we have already described the Ruby, we need not, of course, repeat ourselves, but consider that our list of precious stones, which made the Carbuncle and the Ruby two different gems, was erroneous.

Garnets, or Granats, according to quaint old Nicols, were well known to the ancients, who considered them as a species of Carbuncles, otherwise of Rubies. They are pellucid, crystallized chiefly in dodecahedral forms, imperfectly lamellar in structure, more or less conchoidal in fracture, and some suppose they take their names from being found chiefly in grains.

The Garnet is of three principal species:

1. The Syrian, of a deep rose color, "like unto the flowers of pomegranates," says Nicols. "Boetius," continues he, "saith that it looketh like a flame of fire, etc."

2. The Bohemian or Ceylonese, wine-red or nearly orange-yellow.

3. The Vermeille, deeply tinged with orange-yellow.

The red Garnet is found in many species of rocks, in loose crystals, in small boulders, in grains and in alluvial earth. It occurs in many European countries and in various parts of United States.

The grains collected by digging and washing alluvion are preferred by lapidaries to all others.

The chemical constituents of this gem are silica, alumina and the protoxides of iron and manganese.

Garnets are much used in jewelry, being cut into breastpins, earrings and necklaces, and out of the larger ones snuff boxes are sometimes made.

Their value is measured by their size, purity and color. A Syrian Garnet, eight and a half lines long and six and a half broad, was sold at the auction of the Marquis de Dree for 3550 francs, and a red Ceylonese Garnet, eleven lines long and seven broad, was sold for 1003 francs. They can be very well imitated by pastes.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

### CANADA.

1. S. Obv.—Head of Victoria, to left, laureate. "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA, CANADA." Rev.—Within two maple branches, "20 CENTS 1858," in three lines, surmounted by a crown. Milled edge.

2. S. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do. do. "10 CENTS." Milled edge.

3. S. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do. do. "5 CENTS." Milled edge.

There are also specimens of these coins with plain edge, which are very rare.

4. C. Obv.—A river god, with trident in left hand, leans his right hand on an urn from which water flows. On the exergual line "PONTHON;" in exergue, "1794." Legend on a raised border. "FERTILITATEM DIVITASQUE CIRCUMFEREMUS." Rev.—"COPPER COMPANY OF UPPER CANADA ONE HALF PENNY."

5. C. Obv.—Coarsely executed head, to right. "VEXATOR CANADIN SIS." Rev.—Rude figure of woman dancing. "RENUNTER VISCAPE 1811."

6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. "VEXATOR CANADENSIS." Rev.—Same as No. 5.

7. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. "VEXATOR CANADENSIS 1811." Rev.—Same as No. 5. "RENUNILIUS VISCAPE."

There are two other varieties of this coin, the difference consisting in the mode of spelling or in punctuation.

8. C. Obv.—Sloop under sail, to right. "HALF PENNY TOKEN

UPPER CANADA." Rev.—An Indian, as in No. 9 of Nova Scotia Coins. In exergue, "1815., "COMMERCIAL CHANGE."

9. C. Obv.—Ship under sail, to right. "SUCCESS TO THE COMMERCE OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA." Rev.—"SUCCESS TO COMMERCE, AND PEACE TO THE WORLD 1816."

10. C. Obv.—Same as No. 9. Rev.—"SIR ISAAC BROCK, BART., THE HERO OF UPPER CANADA WHO FELL AT THE GLORIOUS BATTLE OF QUEENSTOWN HEIGHTS ON THE 13TH OCTR 1812." Milled edge.

11. C. Obv.—Two angels holding a wreath over an urn placed on a pedestal, inscribed, "FELL OCT. 13, 1812." "SIR ISAAC BROCK, THE HERO OF UP<sub>R</sub> CANADA." Rev.—Same as No. 9.

The design on the obverse of this coin was taken from the original monument, erected in memory of Sir Isaac Brock, on the Queenstown Heights. It was maliciously blown up by a person named Lett, who was afterwards imprisoned for robbery in the United States. It has been replaced by a handsome monument, by the loyal subjects of Her Majesty in Upper Canada (now Ontario).

12. C. Obv.—Bust of Duke of Wellington, to left, laureated. Within a circle, "HALF PENNY TOKEN 1816." Rev.—Ship under sail, to right. Within circle, "MONTREAL."

13. C. Obv.—Bust of George IV, to right, laureated and draped. "TOKEN 1820." Rev.—A beaver. "NORTH WEST COMPANY." Engrailed edge. This coin is exceedingly rare, no specimen known to be in Canada.

14. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop extends over the last letter in the word Canada. Rev.—An anvil; above it two spades crossed, below 1820. Edge milled.

15. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop extends between the letters "D" and "A" in Canada. Rev.—Same as No. 14.

(To be continued.)

### GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." Addison.

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

*Coins of Aegina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.*

(Continued.)

ASIA.

MYTELENE.

Laureated head of Apollo, to the right.

Rev.—MYTI, a lyre in an indented square.—AR.

EPHEUS.

EO, a bee.

Rev.—EOM I, a stag before a palm tree, or EO, a fly within a laurel garland.

Some have a stag on reverse.

SIGEUM.

Head of Minerva, full faced.

Rev.—MI Γ, an owl, to the right.—Æ.

COLOPHON (IONA).

Laureated head of Apollo, to the right.

Rev.—KOA, a horseman, in the field; a lyre, underneath  
NE Π Γ TO Σ.—Æ.

ERYTHRÆ.

Head of Young Hercules with the lion's skin.

Rev.—ÆE Π AN Δ PO, a bow, club and quiver.

MILENIS.

Laureated head of Apollo, to the left.

Rev.—OEO Δ OTH Σ, a lion regardant, to the left; in the field, a star and a monogram.

PRIENE.

Head of Pallas, to the right; below, a star.

Rev.—IPIHNE Δ N, a tripod.—Æ.

SMYRNA.

A youthful head, laureated, within a garland of laurel.

Rev.—IMYPNAI Δ N, a figure of Homer seated.—Æ.

CHIOS INSULA.

A sphinx, to the left.

Rev.—An indented square.—AR.

Some have ZHNI Σ XIO Σ.

SAMOS INSULA.

The most common obverses are—a horseman, a female head, the head of a lion and sometimes the head of Juno. Reverses—a bull, a peacock and full-faced head of a lion. They generally bear the name Σ AMI Δ N on them.

(To be continued.)

SOMERS ISLAND MONEY.

*A remarkable Medal, struck for the use of the Sommer Island, said to be a unique.*

SIR—The following seems to be the explication of the medal you did me favor to show me, which illustrated a very interesting piece of history.

In the year 1609, a very considerable company was formed in England, consisting of most of the principal nobility, gentry and trading towns and corporations, to the number of a thousand persons and upwards, who had a grant of all the Southern parts of North America, by the name of Virginia.

That same George Somers was appointed Governor of this colony; and he, with Sir Thomas Gates, were sent to establish it: but in their passage they happened to be cast away on the islands of Bermudas. Sir George Somers himself first discovered them, and steered the ship to them, where she ran between two rocks, and lay as in a dock.

Upon those islands they found such a number of wild hogs that

they killed two and thirty immediately, and, after subsisting upon them for nine months, they victualled a vessel with them, with which they got safe to Virginia.

Upon their arrival at Virginia they found the colony in such want of provisions that Sir George Somers returned to those islands for a supply of the hogs: here he died, and was buried, at a place afterwards called George Town.

In consequence of this discovery, those islands, and all others lying within three hundred leagues of the main land of North America, were granted to the foresaid company, by charter, bearing date March 12, 1611-12.

The company sold those islands to some of their own members, who were incorporated by Royal Charter, and had a grant to those islands, by the name of *Somer Islands*, others read *Sommer's Islands*; and that year, 1612, they settled a colony upon them, which has ever since subsisted.

It seems to have been upon this occasion that the medal was struck, as it represents most of events here mentioned.

We may read the inscription, *Somer Islands*, c. R. Charter Regia; and not *Carolo Rege*, as it was before the reign of that king.

— I am with all respect and esteem,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN MITCHELL.

LONDON, Aug. 28, 1764.

The figures XII. over the hog, it is unknown what they mean

[It is generally conceded by numismatists to mean "shilling," as there is extant a silver sixpence of the *Somer Islands*, and the copper piece is undoubtedly a trial piece.—Ed.]

### THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

From time to time fabulous stories have been afloat in Washington concerning the secrets of the United States Treasury vaults. It has been whispered by certain snowy-locked clerks who have been noted for centuries for strictest veracity, that hidden away in the dust and darkness of a certain vault might be found jewels that would vie with or possibly eclipse those found in the diamond cave by "Sinbad the Sailor." Hidden away in wooden boxes, it has been said that pearls as large as pigeons' eggs have nestled, their waxy beauty undisturbed by human eyes, whilst diamonds, both great and small, have winked and blinked without awakening a single sigh or shaft of feminine envy. In this same vault it has been known that parcel after parcel has reposed, whilst the hands that placed them there have crumbled into dust, and the mystery connected with them has been lost to this generation for ever.

In this connection it must be mentioned that this particular vault is the ninth in the Treasury calendar, and it bears a resemblance to a bottomless pit, because heretofore anything under the



head of "special deposits" placed therein has never been heard of again

Amongst other bits of dainty information, it may be chronicled that the famous Field medal was placed here for safe keeping. Once, while Andy Johnson was President, an order came from "headquarters" to send the medal to the White House for inspection. The medal left the building, but was returned unknown to some of the lawful custodians of the place.

It has been the habit from time immemorial to never disturb the ashes of this sepulchre; hence the Field medal rested, but no great harm ensued. It is true, Andy's reputation for a brief time was under a passing cloud, and the hardest worked man in the country was accused of not reading the newspapers; and here the mischief ends, because the same plates were used to make a new medal, whilst the first one is worth its weight of precious metal, and only a small amount of human labor is lost

But in order to have a thorough understanding of this mysterious conglomeration of metal, mortar and stone, a description of the men who know the secrets of the locks should be forthcoming. Nine locks are concealed in the solid door, and each more desperate and secret than the other. Three men only in the country understand this wonderful combination, but as it is an established fact that no one ever dies or resigns in the Treasury, there need be no fear of a national calamity. United States Treasurer Spinner, Assistant Treasurer Tuttle and Cashier Wyman are men designated for the awful duty.

As it would stretch this article to a most unreasonable length to do anything like justice to the lives and duties of these faithful public men, it is only necessary to say that General Spinner is the most honest, bluff, inflexible servant that the people ever employed; that he gives out the same kind of metallic ring as one of his own gold coins when properly tested. Assistant Treasurer Tuttle bears the same relation to the Treasury Department that one Hoe's cylinder presses does to a newspaper office, and that he is a rare combination of faithfulness, strictest integrity, business talent and hard work is a fact never disputed in Washington. Cashier Wyman is the third man of the trio whose business it is to hold the awful keys, and he guards the Treasury vault as Cerberus is said to stand sentinel over a remote and spiritual region, though instead of three heads only one is visible. But this once seen by one who has a longing to ferret out secrets over which he has an indirect control, had better beware, else pain and sorrow are sure to follow.

Whilst Treasurer Spinner and his able assistants know the secrets of the locks, it is Cashier Wyman who daily performs the necessary duties connected with them, and he who goes through the awful door must pass his body, dead or alive. During the recent interesting investigation it gave every indication of life.

*(To be continued.)*

## DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

*To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.*

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(Continued.)

Having premised these observations, the proper divisions of a grand and complete cabinet shall next be stated; which, in the part allotted to ancient coins, may run thus:

- I. The coins of cities and of free states, in alphabetical order.
- II. Kings in chronological series, both as to foundation of empire and seniority of reign.
- III. Heroes, heroines, founders of empires and of cities.
- IV. Other illustrious men and women.
- V. Roman ases.
- VI. Coins of families, commonly called consular.
- VII. Imperial medallions.
- VIII. Imperial gold.
- IX. Imperial quinarii, of all metals.
- X. Imperial silver.
- XI. Imperial first brass.
- XII. Second brass.
- XIII. Third brass.
- XIV. Colonial coins, which are all of brass.
- XV. Greek cities under the emperors, of all metals and sizes. In a smaller cabinet they may be put with the Roman, according to their metal and size.
- XVI. Egyptian coins struck under the Roman emperors, of all metals and sizes. They are mostly of a base metal, called by the French writers *potin*, being a kind of pot-metal, or brittle brass.
- XVII. Contorniati, or ticket medals.
- XVIII. Coins of Gothic princes, etc., inscribed with Roman characters.
- XIX. Coins of Southern nations, using unknown alphabets; as the Persian, Punic, Etruscan, Spanish.
- XX. Coins of Southern nations, using unknown characters; as the Runic and German.

(To be continued.)

## BLACK SHEEP.

It has been universally conceded that coin collectors, as a class, are a most respectable body of citizens, not given to evil pranks; such as "Truthful James" descants upon; but there are exceptions, and it grieves us to mention the fact; but, as an ounce of public exposure is worth a ton of private murmurings, we feel it a duty to call the attention of our readers to a couple of villainous transactions, in the numismatic way, which have occurred at public coin sales. At the

sale of J. Colvin Randall's collection, at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s sales rooms, New York, a Maximillian twenty dollar gold piece was stolen, and a brass card similar to a United States double eagle was substituted. We have a vague suspicion that this act was committed by a small, well-dressed man, who is known among coin dealers in New York for similar petty but criminal numismatic offences. At the coin sale in Boston, December 21, some coin collector substituted an electrotype copy of the Washington "Manly Medal" and stole the original. We say *coin collector*, for the ample reason that a novice would hardly know the difference between the two pieces, and, for the *fact*, we have only to say we examined the original medal and purchased it at two dollars for a customer. Upon receiving the package, we discovered that a leaden copy had been substituted for the original medal. For the sake of numismatics, in behalf of the good name of collectors in New York and Boston, we solicit information concerning these rogueries. Who copied the Manly medal in Boston? To whom were copies sold? Who had an electrotype copy at the sale? A little investigation would clear this matter up, and if the parties are known we promise to publish the names of the miscreants, holding them up to public shame, thus ridding our fraternity of thieves.

#### REDEMPTION OF COINS.

U. S. SENATE, JAN. 18, 1871.

Mr. Fenton, from the Finance Committee, reported without amendment a bill to provide for the redemption of copper and other token coin.

Mr. Fenton explained that the bill had received the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. It was passed.

It requires of the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem in lawful money all copper, nickel and other base metal coinage, when presented in sums of not less than twenty dollars.

[The above proceedings in the Senate Chamber, at Washington, will be hailed with joy by many persons who are anxious to be relieved of the old copper cents and half cents which for the last few years have been repudiated by the United States Government. How will this bill operate on the coin trade? Will the action of the government keep the old coppers in circulation, or will it result in the total disappearance of the old United States copper coinage as a circulating medium? It is our opinion that this action upon the part of Congress will add considerably to the fictitious value of the copper coinage.—Ed.]

#### THE PACKER COIN SALE.

By a communication, received from Mr. Cogan, just as we go to press, we learn that the Packer Coin Cabinet will be sold on the 27th of the present month. We regret that the catalogue is not at hand (January 30), for we should be pleased to refer to the more interesting coins in the collection.

## OUR EXCHANGES.

*The American Journal of Numismatics*, Boston, for January, is received and presents a decided improvement on all previous issues of that journal. Over the initials S. A. G., we quote from the January number a very interesting article, entitled "Somers Island Money," page 71. We notice in the said article the word "Somers" printed in four ways, viz.: "Sommer," "Somer," "Somers", and "Sommers." We believe Somer Islands is the correct orthography.

*The American Journal of Philately*, of New York, for December, is as handsome as usual in typography, cuts and make up. The December number closes the third volume of this interesting stamp journal.

Our English cousins still keep up their monthly dish of good things in the philatelic way. *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath, for January, overflows with its usual supply of able and interesting articles. The January number of this journal opens the ninth volume, and if a forerunner of what is to come, this volume will be a charming one for philatelists.

*The Philatelist*, Brighton, commences its fifth volume with the January number, now on our table. The contents include prize essays, puzzles, undescribed emissions of postage stamps and notices of stamp publications.

The curious monthly collection of deformed English, or, in other words, *The Curiosity Cabinet*, New York, for January is before us, and, to tell the truth, it might as well be behind us, as far as deciphering the first page is concerned. After considerable labor, with the aid of a Chinese puzzle book and Comstock's Philosophy, we succeeded in getting a glimpse of the article on first page, the title being "OTOGRAF KOLEKTIN." This article commences as follows:

"A dinji lot ov old pepurz; hwot duz it min?" Now, if this is intended as a conundrum, we give it up; but we think there would, indeed, be a *dingy lot of old peepers*, if the eyes of our readers were riveted on the article quoted from. The second page is devoted to autographs and postage stamps in readable English. The third page is made up of advertising matter; while the fourth and last page has "Notices of the Press," etc.

We loaned this number of Brown's journal to an autograph collector, first marking the article on "OTOGRAF KOLEKTIN," and the next day it was returned with the following comments:

"What is it all about? The types have been knocked into mince meat before proof, and it makes the worst kind of pi. I asked a German to read it. He said "Nix," and something, I think, about a vessel's "forestay." Then I experimented with a Russian, who significantly tapped his forehead and retired. Is it an organ of the poor fellows over the Schuylkill or the specimen advertisement of a type foundry?"

The only explanation we can afford our autographic friend is that the American Philological Society, of New York, term the lingo reformed orthography or *writing by sound*—not *sound writing*, we

opine. We ask friend Brown, the publisher, to print one column of first page in *deformed* (beg your pardon, brother, *reformed*) *English* and a corresponding column with a full explanation.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, January 2, 1871.

SIRS.—Included I send you a two dollar note to enlist me as a subscriber to your Coin and Stamp Collectors' Monthly Magazine, for 1871, hoping to get it more regular than by my bookseller. The last numbers I received six weeks after the proper date. In the beginning of the war it was twelve weeks after date, so that the large coin sale of Fewsmith was gone when I saw the first note in your paper that there would be a large sale. I asked several antiquarians in this city about American relics, curiosities, books, etc., but they had nothing in this line.

In the June number, Mr. Alfred Sandham says in his article about Canadian coins, "We have no account, until 1700, when the Copper Company issued a coin," etc. So it seems that he does not know the Canadian coin which was made expressly for *this* part of the French dominion, in the year 1658 and 1670 by the law from Louis XIV. The quarter and half dollar are in the collection of Paris, the copper coin from which the law speaks is not turned up to this time. I hope the next month will bring me in the possession of the half dollar piece. As soon as I am the owner, I will send you a pencil rubbing for Mr. Sandham.

Now, I wish you good success to your magazine in this year, and will look for it in the middle of every month. If a sale comes on do not forget to send a catalogue to your German subscriber.

G. L. ULEX.

[We insert our German correspondent's letter to call attention to the Canadian coin alluded to, and in reply would say to Mr. Ulex that a great difficulty exists in getting catalogues of coin sales out in time for the use of our foreign subscribers. It frequently happens that coin catalogues are out only two weeks in advance of sales, thus depriving numismatists in the Old World from competing with purchasers here. We hope, by calling attention to this matter, that parties making public coin sales will remedy the grievance by giving, at least, six weeks' notice before a sale is consummated. Ed.]

## NEW YORK COIN SALE.

Cogan's sale of coins and medals came off on January 16, as announced. The attendance was small. The prices realized were considerably in excess of the preceding sales. When the character of the coins is considered, of which very few are rare, the result of this sale may be said to indicate an advance in United States coins, medals and pattern pieces. The reaction in regard to the latter pieces was marked, and the improvement in prices exhibits a strong desire on the part of numismatists to obtain them.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**SUBSCRIBERS.**—We acknowledge receipt of additional subscriptions to Volume 5 from J. J. Mickley, E. Cogan (2 copies), G. L. Ulex (Germany), J. C. Randall, G. J. Chadd (Canada), C. R. Rutledge, G. S. Griffin, F. M. Tucker, M. D. Gilman, F. R. Smith, L. B. Smith, W. W. Stoddart, O. A. Jennison, N. S. C. Folwell, H. W. Lord, Major Nichols (club of 4), C. L. Ringeison, F. P. Randall, Miss E. J. Cottrell, M. Hirsch, T. Cleneay, T. R. Mason, A. Balmanno, Dr. J. F. Pratt, W. J. Jenks, Dr. E. Maris, R. C. Davis, H. F. Adwers, J. E. Hallet, G. W. Farrier, F. J. Merryman, R. S. Hulburt, W. P. Coolbaugh, J. Haussler, D. Lee, J. M. Dresser, William Clogston (club of 7), United States Mint, W. H. Green, J. L. Wise, R. Colburn, J. E. Bidwell, Col. M. I. Cohen, T. G. Field, W. H. Potter.

WM. C., Springfield, Mass.—We send thanks to all the members of the club, and feel under obligations for your kindness in forming the same. We have prepared a neat title page to Volumes 2, 3 and 4, which can be separated from this number and carefully pasted in the bound volumes.

R. S. DAVIS.—Consult Cavedoni for history of the Jewish coinage; also, De Saulcy. The latter does not include the Roman series struck after the capture of Jerusalem, nor the coins issued by the Tetrarchs. Levy's work is worthy of examination, but has the same faults as De Saulcy's. The leather money of Edward I bore his name, stamp and profile.

H. N. W.—Catalogues mailed. About ten dollars would be a fair bid for each of the aluminum pieces, the dollar and double eagle excepted. The two cent piece, in aluminum, in Cogan's sale, January 16, brought \$7. Your bid was \$6. Too busy to write by mail an answer to all your queries.

T. T. B.—We make no charge for inserting your "want." The magazine and \$1 received, and account square.

W. P. C., Oshkosh.—The rubbing you send represents an ordinary variety of the 1793 cents. Call when in the city.

## COIN SALE IN NEW YORK.

There will be a two days' coin sale, at the rooms of Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., Astor Place, New York, on the 16th and 17th of the present month, commencing each day at 5 P. M. This sale consists of a combination of several collections made up in this city, and contains quite a respectable show of rare and valuable pieces, among which are many of the rare dates of United States half cents in proof condition, pattern pieces, rare foreign and American medals, colonials, numismatic works, etc. The aluminum pieces of 1868 form a complete set, which should be purchased by the government, as our mint is not in possession of a similar series. It seems a pity to break up and scatter the aluminum set by auction, as it will be a lifetime of labor to get together a complete set of United States coinage struck in this metal. We have sent catalogues to all our patrons.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

**FRENCH REPUBLIC.**—The resuscitated types of the old republic are now in use in France. The complete list now reads as follows:

- |    |          |                                      |                 |
|----|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | centime, | olive on green,                      | unperforated.   |
| 2  | "        | brown on straw,                      | "               |
| 4  | "        | gray on white,                       | "               |
| 10 | "        | bistre, perforated and unperforated, | several shades. |
| 20 | "        | blue,                                | "               |
| 80 | "        | bright carmine,                      | unperforated.   |

No doubt to these will soon be joined stamps of 30 and 40 centimes. The former value must be in particular request, as it represents the rate for letters for this country, which has at present to be formed with at least two stamps. We may also look forward to the early appearance of a 5 centimes of the republic, old type, as this value has never been issued with laureated head, and the old stock must be pretty nearly exhausted. At Paris; the authorities attach the 5 centimes of the empire to the little cards, which the Paris letter writers send to their correspondents in the country. The stamp represents the cost of the card, and does not prepay the reply which is to be written on it. These cards form an interesting item among the special means of communication with Paris resorted to under present circumstances. They are sold only in Paris; the purchaser, in the letter he writes, puts four questions to his correspondent in the country, which should be so framed as to admit of an absolute negative or affirmative answer being given to each. In his letter he inserts the card, and the receiver fills in, on ruled spaces provided for the purpose, the name of the district in which he resides, the initials of his surname, the name and address of his friend in Paris, and his replies to the four questions addressed to him, which replies must be confined to a simple yes or no. The card thus filled in must be taken to a post-office, and one franc must be paid by the sender as postage thereof; the postmaster, to whom it is confided, remits it in turn to the delegate of the postmaster-general at Clermont Ferrand (or elsewhere), and this latter transmits the laconic communication it contains by carrier pigeon to Paris.

**SPAIN.**—The Congress stamps promise to become a numerous family. Only eight months since, a new die was prepared, and now behold another, which differs hardly at all from its predecessor. The word *Congreso* is transformed into *Congresso* on the last comer, for some abstruse reason, no doubt, and that is about all the difference which exists between the two stamps.

**SPANISH COLONIES.**—A new type is out for these colonies, and it will at once be seen that Senor Eugenie Julia, the engraver (whose initials may be discovered in the lower right corner of the stamp), has

been taking a leaf out of Messrs. Perkins & Bacon's book. The idea of a seated figure has evidently been borrowed from the Barbadoes and Trinidad stamps, though what or whom the said figure is intended to represent is fair ground for conjecture—possibly Commerce, possibly Liberty, possibly regenerated Spain holding out the olive branch of peace to all the world. It will be noticed that the *pesta* has become the unit of currency, as in the old country, and also that the system of dating the emissions is maintained. We must defer giving a list of the colors and values until our next.

SWITZERLAND.—*Righi-Coulm*.—The well known Righi-Kaltbad stamp has now a companion in the shape of a Righi-Coulm stamp. It is printed in two colors; the oval is blue, and the ground and the flower is rose. The local stamps of the Rigi are, it appears, to be suppressed in the course of this year, as the railway up the mountain will probably be completed in the course of a few months.

HELVETIA.—We learn from our Brussels contemporary that the Helvetic republic now possesses field-post envelopes.

HOLLAND.—On the 1st December appeared a 2½ cents adhesive, of of the arms type, colored violet.

BAVARIA.—The 1, 3 and 7 kreuzer are now perforated.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

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#### UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Continued.)

Brandreth's Pills, rect., 1 cent, black.

Brown's Brouchial Troches, Boston, Mass., oblong, 1 cent, black; 2 cents, green; 4 cents, brown.

F. Brown's Essence of Jamaica Ginger, Philadelphia, rect., 2 cents, black.

Brown's Vermifuge Comfits, New York, oblong, 1 cent, black.

Dr. John Bull's Preparations, Louisville, Kentucky, rect., 1 cent, black; 4 cents, blue.

Byam, Carlton & Co., Boston, rect., 1 cent, black; oblong, 1 cent, black (5 varieties).

Barry's Tricopherous, New York, oblong, 2 cents, green.

Bauer & Beudel, New York Matches, rect., 1 cent, blue.

H. & M. Bentz, Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Bent & Lea's Eureka Parlor Matches, Wilmington, Delaware, rect., 1 cent, black.

W. T. Blow (Dr. T. L. Stephens), St. Louis, oblong, 1 cent, green.

Barber & Peckham, oblong, 3 cents, black.

Jos. Burnett & Co., Boston, rect., 4 cents, black; 6 cents, black.

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#### WANTED.

Fifty cents each paid for January and June numbers, 1869, of this magazine; also, wanted, January and February numbers, 1870, for which twenty-five cents each will be paid. Address this office.



MASON'S  
COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'  
MAGAZINE.

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No. 3.

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AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*

At the meeting of the American Philosophical Society, held February 19, 1796, the proceedings were diversified by a singular incident, which we find thus recorded in the minutes:

"Mr. Peale presented to the Society a young son of four months and four days old, being the first child born in the Philosophical Hall, and requested the Society would give him a name. On which, the Society unanimously agreed that, after the name of the chief founder and late President of the Society, he should be named Franklin." Tradition adds that the infant was thereupon so named in the President's chair, given to the Society by Benjamin Franklin.

This child, in a peculiar sense the child of the Society, was Franklin Peale, our late associate, to whose memory I now, honored by your choice, seek to render a feeble tribute.

The father of Franklin Peale was Charles Wilson Peale, a man of various gifts, eminent as a painter and as the founder of the once noted Philadelphia Museum. To him the country owes an extensive series of portraits of the most distinguished men of our revolutionary and post-revolutionary era. In the course of his profession, having been called on to make drawings of bones of the mammoth, his attention became attracted to natural history, and he began the accumulation of objects illustrating that department of science. From very small beginnings, Wilson Peale, by energy, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, above all praise succeeded in building up the Museum referred to, which Philadelphians of a past generation recall as one of the most interesting and useful institutions of our city. He was a member of our Society—which was naturally much interested in the success of his work—whence it happened that, while the Museum was still in its early stage of growth, in the year 1794, it was located in our building, the same which we now occupy; and here, in the northwest room, second story, now known as the Librarian's room, Franklin Peale was born on the 15th day of October, 1795. His mother was Elizabeth De Peyster, second wife of Charles Wilson Peale. She died while he was quite young, but his childhood and

youth were tenderly cared for by a stepmother, Wilson Peale's third wife, a member of the Society of Friends.

The father's views on the subject of education were peculiar. The children were not directed according to any systematic routine, but left much to their own choice in their course of study. They were guided according to a fancied ability, and means were furnished (but not always the teachers) to stimulate them to the acquisition of the knowledge towards which their minds seemed naturally bent. Books, tools, canvas and pencils, besides the opportunities to see what had been done by others, he thought sufficient, provided there was disposition to learn; otherwise he considered any attempt to push them forward as but lost time. If such a plan of education seems open to criticism, it may, perhaps, be justified by the result, which has furnished to us, in the Peale family, Rembrandt, the artist; Franklin, the mechanician; and Titian, the naturalist.

The instruction received by Mr. Peale seems, therefore, to have been quite irregular. He had no systematic course of training, either in school or college. He went first to a country school in Bucks county, was a short time at the University of Pennsylvania, and finished his education at the Academy, in Germantown, where the family then resided.

(To be continued.)

#### SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

NEW SERIES. No. 3.

"Numismatic Punning."

The fraternity of numismatists includes a number of witty individuals who occasionally relieve the monotony of the coin trade by the perpetration of jokes, puns and anecdotes, which would, if collected, form an amusing volume. Upon a recent occasion, a few choice spirits addicted to "Hoodisms" (a new word) were discussing in our coin store the merits of the Packer collection of coins, occasionally indulging in a quiet criticism on the Packer catalogue and its peculiar terms for the condition of coins. All at once the classical countenance of Mr. S. assumed a comico-quizzical look, and the following little dialogue ensued:

S.—"Gentlemen, open your catalogues at page 46 (COLONIAL PIECES). About midway on the page we have the *Latin-anglo* title: AUCTORI CONNECTICUT. What order do you take upon that?"

R.—"Oh! that's merely a typographical error. We all know what it means."

S.—"Wonder if Mr. Cogan would object if *i cut* the four last letters from the word *Connecticut*?"

M.—"I should think not, for then we would have the title correct to a T."

S.—"Hold, gentlemen; if you *cut* out the *t*, I do not see, how you can make it *connect*."

*M.*—"But if you do not cut out the *i* you can see the connection.

*R.*—"How if the *t* and *i* were both cut out?"

*M.*—"That would never do, for when the *tie* is destroyed you cannot connect the cut.

*H.*—"Come, come, gents, have done with this, or you will each be indited for treason in your puerile efforts to curtail a good New England State, and thus break up the Union."

(To be continued.)

### GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

#### GREEK CIVIC COINS.

*Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.*

(Concluded.)

#### CNIDUS (CARIA.)

KN, head of Venus, to the right.

Rev.—The forepart of a lion crouching, to the right.—AR.

#### HALICARNASSUS.

Head of Pallas, to the right.

Rev.—ΑΛΙΟΙΛ, an owl, full-faced.

Many have a trident and the flower of the lotus.

#### MYNDUS.

Laureated head of Jupiter, to the right.

Rev.—ΜΥΝΛ, or ΜΥΝ, an owl.

Or a vine stalk, with a bunch of grapes.

#### ORTHOSIA.

Crowned head of Bacchus, to right.

Rev.—ΩΛΕ, a panther regardant, running to the right.

#### COS INSULA.

Laureated head of Esculapius, to the right.

Rev.—ΚΙΩΝ. ΝΙΚΜΗ, a serpent entwined around the staff.

#### RHODES.

Full-faced head of the sun.

Rev.—ΡΟΙΩΝ, a rose in an indented square.—AR.

Some have the lotus flower, many a bee, with monograms.

#### ACRASSUS (LYDIA.)

Female head.

Rev.—The Ephesian Diana.

#### CHALCIS.

Head of Janus.

Rev.—ΧΑΛ, in a laurel garland.

#### GAZA (JUDEA.)

Male head, laureated, to the right.

Rev.—ΓΑΖΑ.ΑΖΕ, two figures in a temple, the one holding a spear, the other an ear of corn.

## THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Onyx is one variety of the species of mineral substance called calcedony, and is the stone of which those exquisite artistic products, the antique Cameos, were made, and although cheaper substances, and more easily to be wrought upon, are used chiefly at the present day for the production of these works of Art, the Onyx is still extensively employed. The peculiarity which fits it for this branch of Art is its composition of different colored strata, of which the artists takes advantage in fashioning figures in relief on and out of the stone. If there are two strata, a figure, or a series of them, is engraved out of the one, and the rest cut away until the other stratum appears as a ground for the subject engraved. If there are three strata, two figures may be engraved, the one most prominent and the back ground being of the same color—the intermediate one being of a different hue.

The colors of the different layers of the Onyx are black (or dark) and white.

The principal supply of this stone now comes from Oberstein, in Prussian Saxony, though some are furnished both by the East Indies and Brazil.

As good specimens of these stones are scarce, it has become common even in Saxony to stain in imitation of it common uncolored specimens of calcedony. This mineral in all its variety consists of strata of different degrees of density, though oftener all of the same color—a nebulous milky gray. It will absorb fluids in the direction of the strata, which, on account of the diversity of their structure, will, though all be gray, if the whole stone be dyed with one material, present tints widely marked in hue. This is a business extensively carried on at the towns of Oberstein and Idar.

The Onyx itself is treated also chemically at these places, to increase the contrast between its white and dark layers. This is effected principally by sulphuric acid.

These imitations, as well as the Onyx itself, are very hard and expensive to engrave. A cheaper and softer material was, therefore, sought and found in shells, and of this substance are made the greater proportion of Cameos we now meet with. Among the shells fitted for the purpose is the "Bull's Mouth," from Ceylon and Madagascar, having a red inner coat; the "Black Hemlet," from Jamaica, Nassau, and New Providence, having a blackish inner coat; and the "Queen Conch," having a pink coat. The "Black Helmet" is the largest, a single shell often furnishing two or three Cameos of the size usually adopted for breastpins. All these shells have three several layers, deposited successively by the secretion of the mollusc, white forming

its calcareous domicil. The substance was introduced in the manufacture of Cameos in Sicily only about fifty years ago. It was restricted to that island and Italian peninsula for about twenty years, but an emigrant Italian then commencing the manufacture in Paris, that city has since been the head quarters of the Art.

*(To be continued.)*

## THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

*(Continued.)*

Treasurer Spinner says: "There is nothing in my department that I am not willing the people should know all about, unless it is something under seal turned over to me for safe keeping by the War Department. Some things are here subject to an order of the Secretary of War. I do not know myself what is in the vault. I think the Secretary had better send some one, and, with others of this office, a thorough understanding can be had, and the authorities will know what is best to do in the matter.

One gloomy afternoon the work of investigation began. The first object that saw the light of day was a box as elfish as the one dragged from the sea by the fisherman, but, instead of being made of copper and fastened with the seal of the great Solomon, it was bound with red tape and bore the waxen seal of some deceased Secretary of the Treasury. When opened, it emitted an odor of dead roses. The first article lifted from the box was a heavy square bottle, which contained the attar of roses. A considerable quantity of the precious fluid had made its escape, but quite enough remained to perfume the city if this shall be considered necessary after the carnival has passed away. There was no paper to indicate to whom this attar of roses belonged. Tradition says that some East Indian prince sent it to Martin Van Buren; that it had once been deposited at the Patent Office, and afterwards sent to the Treasury, in the year 1848. The next bottle lifted from the paper wrappings contained pearls. These were remarkably fine on account of shape, size and purity of color. Two of these pearls were the largest the writer has ever seen. They were oblong in shape, and these two must have given color to the fancy of "pearls as large as pigeon eggs." As there was no way of counting these jewels, it was judged there might have been one hundred and fifty all together. The next article was a vial containing diamonds. None of these were large, but they were very clear and perfect in shape. It seemed as if they must have once been a part of some royal necklace which had been stolen. As is usually the case in calamities of this kind, the detectives only recover the smaller stones. There might have been a thimbleful of diamonds.

Thieves evidently had been at work with the treasure, for the next article brought forth was the golden lining of a snuff box, but the jewelled cover and fragrant snuff were missing. Next came a gold ornament which had once held together a pearl necklace. The

silken string and tassel attached to it showed its East Indian origin. This, it appears, was the article left to show that some President or officer of the Government had been presented with a pearl necklace. It had been placed on exhibition somewhere, and thieves made away with it; but, in order to secure what was recovered beyond all chances of future escape, the strings and gold fastening were laid in this vault.

(*To be continued.*)

#### DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

*To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.*

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(*Continued.*)

In the modern part no series can be formed of copper that will go above two centuries; but sequences of gold and of silver may be arranged of all the different empires, kingdoms and states, so far as their several coinages will allow. Those of England and France will be the most perfect. Modern silver is commonly arranged in three sequences: the dollar size, the shilling size, and the groat size. The medals of each modern country ought, of course, to be separated, though it is best to arrange each set in chronological order, let their size or metal be what they will. It may be remarked here that our modern medals, of the size of a tea saucer, are only so many monuments of Gothicism. The ancient medallions are almost universally but little larger than a crown piece, though three or four of them may extend to two inches in diameter, but very many modern medals to four inches and more. A large medal always declares an ignorant prince or an ignorant artist. Into the size of a crown piece the ancient threw more miracles in this way than will ever appear on these monstrous productions; but, as Zeuxis said to his scholar, who had daubed a paltry design with florid colors, "If thou hast not made it beautiful, thou hast made it rich," so it may be said to those enormous artists, with this addition, that a pair of scales gives the most just estimate of their works.

The formation of a cabinet of the second class next demands our attentions. The directions for the former will likewise apply to this so far as it is meant to go. But as the smaller cabinet only includes a few complete sequences, either of ancient or modern coins, some more particular instructions may be given. If, for instance, the collector means to form a series of the Roman large brass, he will find the coins of four or five emperors so scarce as not to be attainable in that series, even at any price. He must, of necessity, supply their places with the middle brass, as is allowed with regard to Otho even in the best cabinets, there not being above three coins of that emperor, in large brass, known in the world; whereas of the middle brass, two

or three hundred may exist. If this is allowed in one instance, why not in others? Why may not Tiberius or Pertinax appear in the brass, as well as Otho? I confess I can see no reason for the middle collector putting himself to a needless expense which might be laid out in articles of more importance to his cabinet, merely that a series may receive a finical completion, which is of no necessity but in the eyes of visionaries. This will appear the more just when we consider that it is not by the size of the coin only that medalists, even the most rigid in the superstition of their fantastic science, decide whether it belongs to the first or second brass, but by that of the head which it bears.

(*To be continued.*)

## ENGLISH GOLD COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print]

### HENRY III.

This king was the first English monarch who coined gold. The only denomination is the penny, on the obverse of which the king is represented in a chair of state, with the globe and sceptre. The reverse is a double cross, like that on the silver pennies after his thirty-second year, but with a rose in each quarter between the three pellets; legend, the moneyer's name. They are of the very first rarity.

### EDWARD III.

Edward III coined florins, half florins and quarter florins in his eighteenth year. The first bore two leopards on the obverse; the second, one leopard, and the last a helmet. The two former have never been discovered, this first coinage having been almost immediately recalled. The quarter florin is the rarest English gold coin at present known, excepting the gold penny of Henry III. In the same year, Edward coined nobles, halves and quarters, the former weighing about 136 grains and all the others in proportion. In the twentieth year of his reign, another coinage of nobles was issued, the noble being reduced to 128 grains. In his twenty-seventh year, a further coinage took place, when the noble suffered a reduction of eight grains, and weighed only 120. These last are common, but the nobles of the first two coinages and their parts are very rare. They may be distinguished from the latter by the word *AQV.*, which does not occur on the gold coins of Edward III until after the twenty-sixth year of his reign. The nobles have on their obverse the king in a ship, crowned, and in armor, with a sword and shield, the latter bearing the arms of England and France quarterly.

### RICHARD II.

The noble, half noble and quarter weigh the same as the last of Edward III. They are all rare, but especially the half noble.

### HENRY IV.

The pieces of the first coinage of this king, which consisted of the noble (weighing 108 grains), and its parts, are exceedingly rare.

## 44 MASON'S COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

The others, which cannot be distinguished from those of Henry V and Henry VI, are common.

### HENRY VI.

The angel of this king is scarce, and the half angel is extremely rare. The angel bears the figure of St. Michael trampling on the dragon.

### EDWARD IV.

The only rare gold coin of Edward IV is the angelet or half angel. The angel should weigh 80 grains.

### RICHARD III.

The angel of this king is rare, and the half angel particularly so.

### HENRY VII.

The ryal is very rare, as is also the double sovereign. The sovereign is rare, but the angel and half angel are common.

### HENRY VIII.

The only rare coins of this monarch are the George noble (71 grains), having the figure of St. George on horseback, and the ryal. The latter is of the first rarity.

### EDWARD VI.

The common gold coins of this king are the half sovereign of his first coinage, the sovereign of his second coinage, and the half sovereign with the head crowned. The others are rare.

### MARY.

The sovereign common, the angel scarce, the half angel and the ryal very rare.

### ELIZABETH.

All the gold coins of Elizabeth are common, except the ryal, which is very scarce.

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## HOW NUMISMATICS MAY BE POPULARIZED.

We have pleasure in recording how the science of numismatics has recently been made popular in Montreal, and we now commend the process to its devotees in other localities. First in chronological order, at a bazaar held in behalf of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, not the least attractive portion of the venture was the exhibition of a very choice collection of coins and medals, the property of James Ferrier, Esq.; and although, as Mr. Ferrier informed those interested in them, the specimens were hastily taken at random from his cabinet without any attempt at order (the idea having been suggested only at the last moment), nevertheless, from the rarity of many of the pieces shown, they were a source of great pleasure and secured the attention of many who probably never thought of numismatics before.

Next, at a conversazione held in connection with the Young Men's Association of Trinity Church, Montreal, Mr. H. Mott, President of the Numismatic Society of that city, exhibited a very extensive collection of coins and medals, which were the theme of general admiration. The exhibition, in addition to many interesting medals of the



Reformers, Luther, Knox, Calvin, Wickliffe, etc., included the rare silver one in commemoration of the acquittal of the seven bishops, and was *unique* in this particular—that Mr. Mott had gathered together a complete set of the Educational Medals of the Dominion of Canada.

At a subsequent meeting of the same association, a lecture was given by Mr. Mott on "The Coins of the Bible," the value of the essay being enhanced by the exhibition of a number of the pieces referred to, amongst which were the "Tribute Money," a "Judæa Capta," pieces of Herod, etc. We take this opportunity of commending these efforts as a practical method of popularizing numismatics, and showing how many a pleasant and profitable hour may be spent in the pursuit of the study.

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

### CANADA.

16. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—A cask, inscribed, "UPPER CANADA;" below, "1821 COMMERCIAL CHANGE"

17. C. Obv.—Justice standing with sword and scales. "LESSLIE & SONS, TORONTO AND DUNDASS 1822." Rev.—A plow; above it, "TOKEN;" below it, "2D CURRENCY." "PROSPERITY TO CANADA, LA PRUDENCE ET LA CANDEUR." Rare.

18. C. Obv.—Same as No. 17. "LESSLIE & SONS, YORK KINGSTON & DUNDAS." Rev.—A plow with one bar across the handles; above it, "TOKEN;" below, "HALF PENNY." Same inscription as No. 17. There are several varieties of this half penny token, the difference consisting in the shape of the plow, and some having two bars across the handles. No corresponding penny has yet been met with.

19. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—A plow; "TO FACILITATE TRADE 1823." Edge milled.

20. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—Same as No. 19.

21. C. Obv.—"CANADA 1830." Rev.—"HALF PENNY," in two lines.

22. C. Obv.—Bust of George IV, to the left, laureated and draped. "PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA." Rev.—Britannia, as on English coinage of 1806. "HALF PENNY TOKEN 1832." Edge engraved.

23. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 19, dated "1833."

24. C. Obv.—Same as No. 15. Rev.—Same as No. 23.

25. Brass. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Bowsprit of sloop almost touching the apex of last letter in "Canada." Rev.—An anvil, with hammer and tongs, between a scythe blade and a vice; above it, two spades crossed; below, "1833."

26. C. Obv.—A *habitant* or French Canadian farmer standing

with a whip in his right hand and the left extended. "PROVINCE DU BAS CANADA DEUX SOUS." Rev.—Arms of the City of Montreal. "BANK TOKEN ONE PENNY 1837." In the scroll preceding from both sides of the garter in arms, in sunk letters, "BANK OF MONTREAL."

27. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. In scroll, "CITY BANK."

28. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. In scroll, "BANQUE DU PEUPLE."

29. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—do., do. "QUEBEC BANK."  
(To be continued.)

#### SALE OF THE PACKER COIN CABINET.

The late Ex-Governor Packer's large collection of coins was disposed of, by public auction, in New York, February 27 and the four succeeding days, to the satisfaction, no doubt, of buyers and the executors of the Packer estate. The total receipts reached five thousand and eight hundred dollars in round numbers. This sale has been the theme of conversation among numismatists for many weeks. When the hour arrived for the commencement of the sale, the auction room was fairly filled with many prominent collectors and dealers—all anxious to know what prices would prevail for choice and rare pieces. The choice coin in the American series, in condition and rarity, was the Washington half dollar, in copper, which was purchased by Mason & Co. for \$85. The silver piece of same date and description, but not in fine condition, was sold, to the same party, for \$40.

The fine cents realised good prices. 1793 cent, fine, brought \$18; 1795 cent, uncirculated, \$30; 1796 cent, uncirculated, fillet head variety, \$26; 1803 cent, bright and uncirculated, \$18; 1804 cent, fine, \$24 75; 1808 cent, very fine, \$34; 1809 cent, uncirculated, \$25; 1793 half cent, fine, \$15; 1795 half cent, fine, thick die, \$20; 1831 proof half cent, \$10 75; 1836 proof half cent, \$10; 1852 proof half cent, \$7. The ancient coins were, by far, the most interesting pieces of the whole cabinet, and commanded good prices. The spirited competition over the Greek coins exhibited additional interest in these hitherto (in America) neglected but interesting pieces; and the high prices realised are convincing proofs that collectors have entered the study of the ancients and their coinage with commendable spirit, resolved to compete with the nations of the old world in their historical knowledge of the ancient Greek potentates and contemporaneous history. The tetradrachms sold from \$1 75 to \$15 50. We should think \$6 about the average of the "Greek Coins of Princes," numbering 32 lots. The Greek autonomous coins sustained about the same average as their predecessors. Greek drachms averaged about \$2 50 each. Silver rupees, etc., of India, \$2 each. Greek copper coins about 75 cents each. The Roman imperial and family coins sold low; also, the denarii of the imperial series.

Modern silver and copper coins of Europe sold low—in many cases at par value. Choice crowns and other silver pieces of rarity, in fine condition, realised handsome prices.

The attendance of buyers and spectators was quite good during the whole sale; but a lack of interest and a falling off of values occurred on the fifth day, much to the joy of certain dealers, who snapped at bargains with keen appetites for the little margin which such bargains afforded. This sale, like all others, had its little episode, and, this time, rather a novel one. On the fifth and last night of sale, Mr. Merwin, the talented and voluble auctioneer, was a little belated and did not arrive until a few minutes after the appointed time of sale. In this emergency, while the buyers were in their seats, and our venerable and respected friend, Mr. Cogan, behind the counter, book in hand, and behind those spectacles which give to him, in conjunction with his silvery hairs, the aspect of some right reverend just on the point of opening a sermon—we say, in this fix, it occurred to one of the audience to nominate Mr. Cogan auctioneer *pro tem.*, which position was no sooner proposed than accepted by our numismatic brother dealer, who, accepting the situation with remarkable good humor, proceeded to open the sale by making one of his characteristic speeches, interrupted occasionally by some humorous remarks, such as: "Have you taken out a license?" and other casual observations. Mr. Cogan, nothing daunted, led off with a bronze medal of Commodore Decatur. "How much for Decatur?" Fifty cents was the bid, and the good-natured auctioneer proceeded through all the various fractions that bidders delight in, such as 52½, 55, 57½, 60, \$1 02½ and so on up to \$1 50, when Mr. Cogan had exhausted the vocabulary of the salesman, knocked down the medal to Captain Dendendorf for \$1 50, and retired to make room for Mr. Merwin, who had entered the room and, with his partner, Mr. Bangs, was enjoying the little episode with evident relish, while the audience were fairly convulsed with the novel scene.

#### DOLOROUS.

Mrs. Dollar, of Detroit, let a skillet drop on the head of a Miss Griffin, and she will spend a "quarter" in the workhouse. The judge said he thought it safer if she be *cent.*—*N. Y. Democrat.*

[Where was her better half, Dollar, that he should let this *change* be made in his household? It is evident he does not care a d—ime what becomes of his *Dollar.*—Ed.]

#### UNIQUE FEUCHTWANGER COIN.

We have examined a Feuchtwanger three cent piece, 1837, eagle on a rock, struck in copper. This piece is in possession of L. G. Parmelee, of Boston, and is the only one we ever saw or heard of in copper. Can any of our readers give the history of the Feuchtwanger pieces, or throw light upon the origin of the copper three cent piece?

## A SCOTTISH IDEA OF GEOLOGY.

Geology is better understood than formerly, but there have been amusing incidents of the misapprehension of ignorant people about the work of geologists. A peasant, in England, who had been watching Professor Sedgwick break up rocks with his mallet, said to his companion, pityingly, "Poor man! a little soft here!" touching the head. But the following incident of Scotland, told by Dr. McLeod, is more amusing:

There is one science, the value of which it is very difficult to make a Highlander comprehend, and that is mineralogy. He connects botany with the art of healing; astronomy with guidance from the stars, or navigation; chemistry with dying, brewing, etc.; but "chopping bits off the rock," as he calls it, this has always been a mystery.

A shepherd, while smoking his pipe at a small Highland inn, was communicating to another in Gaelic his experience of "mad Englishmen," as he called them.

"There was one," said the narrator, "who gave me his bag to carry to the inn by a short cut across the hills, while he walked by another road. I was wondering to myself why it was so dreadfully heavy, and when I got out of his sight I was determined to see what there was in it. I opened it, and what do you think was in it? But I need not ask you to guess, for you would never find out. It was stones."

"Stones!" exclaimed his companion, opening his eyes; "stones! Well, well, that beats all I ever knew or heard of them! And did you carry it?"

"Carry it! Do you think I was mad as himself? No; I emptied them all out, but I filled the bag again from the cairn near the house, and gave good measure for his money!"

## THE GOLD DARIC.

A year ago, the editor of the New York *Numismatic Journal* enthusiastically writes: "We have never seen a Daric. Is there such a thing to be seen in this Western Hemisphere? For edification, for intellectual stimulus, we would rather own a genuine Daric than any coin on the American catalogue. \* \* \* But, we repeat, we have not one and we know not of any man who has one."

Well, yes, such a thing has been seen in this Western Hemisphere. Has the editor ever heard of a place called Philadelphia? For there are several things to be found there which the literati of Gotham (will it be believed?) have never seen. For instance: Within the limited circle of our knowledge there are four gold staters of Darius Hystaspes, in the city of Philadelphia.

## NUMISMATIC BURGLARY.

The store of A. C. Kline, in this city, was feloniously entered on the 2d of February, and robbed of about six hundred dollars' worth of silver and copper coins and medals. No clue to the burglars.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

KING.—Sent you the Packer catalogues, and will price the same for \$2.

A. N.—If you expect to complete a set of the different colonial coppers of Connecticut and New Jersey, you will have a happy time in accomplishing the undertaking. New varieties are continually discovered. The rubbing you send us is taken from the *Pluribs* type.

P. R. L.—Ex. Gov. Packer was a devoted disciple of the numismatic fraternity; yet his collection, as a whole, is quite indifferent, all things considered. A correspondent writes us in reference to the late Mr. Packer:

"He did not go almost mad over a fine piece. He cared only for the intellectual interest in collecting. If there was a coin in a catalogue that he did not have, he would buy it almost entirely irrespective of price or condition. He bought large quantities of common stuff to obtain varieties. He had a very poor opinion of those who gave fifty or one hundred and fifty dollars for a cent, or seven hundred and fifty dollars for an 1804 dollar, although, I presume, he could have afforded it as well as most. He was one of the few who thoroughly enjoyed the science of numismatics. He would spend whole days in finding out the history of a coin; and once, not long ago, he spent fourteen days in tracing the history of two pieces."

In reply, we would simply remark that the collectors who have the good fortune to obtain pieces at such an outlay of money as described would probably have a poor opinion of a party, in possession of a large fortune and ample facilities, who devoted years to the accumulation of common pieces, in ordinary condition, and wasted precious time in the study of such a collection for self amusement only. We can only express surprise and wonder at the character of the Packer cabinet, knowing full well that the owner possessed unusual intelligence and unlimited means to make almost perfect any series of the coins of his country he desired. The American silver coins, with here and there an exception, were collected, apparently, at random, without regard to rarity or condition, and so with the American copper series; while his foreign coins and medals present nothing unusual, as a series, in the way of rare or fine pieces. The Fewsmith cabinet was far superior to it, although lacking in quantity as compared to the Packer cabinet.

R. KNIGHT, Westfield.—Subscription received. We hope to present, in this volume, full details of the construction and cost of cabinets for coins and medals. The largest medal in bronze issued by the United States Mint is the medal of Grant, size 68. We have this medal in white metal, believed to be *unique*, price, \$20.

J. B. C., Providence.—\$1 50 received for subscription. Also received subscriptions from A. K. S., Lancaster; T. C. K., Newbury; R. W. Mc.L., Montreal; S. S. R., Menasha, Wis.; A. B. E., Burlington, N. J.; E. B. T., Watkins, N. Y.; W. H. P., Scranton; G. R. P., South Gardner; W. T. H., St. Louis; D. R. Jr., Charleston, S. C. Others answered and acknowledged by mail.

## 50 MASON'S COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

A. S. F., Columbus.—\$1 50 received for subscription. Send on the article by all means.

Wm. C., Springfield, Mass.—Two more names added to your list of subscribers, on same terms as original club.

J. M. D., Lafayette.—All square to date, Feb. 20.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

MALDEN, N. Y., February 20, 1871.

SIRS.—Enclosed you will find \$1 50 for another subscription from March, 1871, to March, 1872. I am getting up a collection of United States cents, and I must say that your magazine has helped me greatly. I would recommend it to all dealers in coins, as it is both useful and full of information to all. I give you my best wishes that it may prosper and its circulation increase to your highest expectations.

Yours, etc.,

ALEXANDER VALK.

### DEFUNCT.

The firm of F. T. & Co., stamp dealers, of Boston, we learn from various sources, has "gone where the woodbine twineth," or, in other words, "gone up!" Our sympathies are enlisted with the mourning creditors to the amount of two dollars. To the foreign creditors of F. T. & Co., we would say make a *note* of it.

### THE PACKER COIN SALE.

In order to give a full report of this sale, we were compelled to delay the publication of this number until the 8th inst.

### NEW COINAGE.

The silver dollar for 1871 has been issued from the Carson City Mint, Nevada. The only difference noticed in comparison with the dollar issued from the Philadelphia Mint are the letters "C. C." in exergue on reverse.

### OWLS.

A little pleasantry was relished in ancient times as well as by the present generation. Apropos: there is an anecdote extant of a rich Athenian miser who had swarms of owls roosting in his garret—the owl, being the emblem of Athens, is represented on its money, which the miser had concealed in the upper story of the domicile—and experienced delight in calling in strangers to see his owls, as Athenian coins were termed.

### PROSPECTIVE COIN SALE.

A sale of ancient and modern coins will take place, in New York, on the 3d of April. Catalogues will be mailed to all our patrons.

### PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

Small coin sales take place in this city fortnightly.

**Philatelic Department.**

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

**TASMANIA.**—Some considerable time has elapsed since the emission of any novelty from this colony. The type with bust of Victoria has been chosen for certain values of a new set. The appellation Van Diemen's Land, hitherto seen on the three lower values, seems to be rendered obsolete; the new-comers, and the unaltered sixpence and and shilling stamps, bearing an uniform name. In addition to these five former denominations, a hitherto unemployed value is added, the tenpenny being no longer a myth. Colors are as follows:

1 penny, pink.	4 pence, blue.
2 pence, green.	10 pence, black.

**LEVANT STEAM COMPANY.**—M. Moens announces a specimen of the blue adhesive of this company, having the eagle and vessel on a white ground, not on a red fretwork as usual.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Some acute observers have discovered that the halfpenny adhesives are numbered; a very minute figure will be found exactly opposite the fractional line on the left hand, and in the same position with regard to the centre of the numerator on the right side.

**ALSACE AND LORRAINE.**—Two additional values in the same type have been issued for these provinces. The whole set is employed, not only in the two annexations, but wherever the Prussian postal arrangements predominate. We have received postmarked specimens from Champagne.

5 centimes, light and dark green.	25 centimes, brown.
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**EGYPT.**—M. Moens chronicles the 1 piastre pin-perforated.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**—One of the lately-described Newfoundland supplementary adhesives is out, similar in design to the Canada Bill stamps. Value excepted, it would equally serve for 6 cents, which was quoted as being carmine, but is really lake-pink.

**FRANCE.**—The lithographed current series of the republican type is completed by the issue of 5 centimes, pale and yellow green; the 30 c., in two shades of brown, and the 40 c., orange and vermillion. These three values, and the 10 c., 20 c. and 80 c., are close copies of the originals; the 1 c., 2 c. and 4 c., only, having the numerals conspicuously prominent. The newly prepared plates appear to be already much worn, some individuals being most indistinctly impressed.

**PORTUGAL.**—A new type has been chosen for another set of Portuguese adhesives. As far as can be judged from specimens examined, it is a mere change, unaccompanied by any improvement. As in all the previous emissions of this kingdom, the impression is in relief. Perforation as before. There are but two values yet out.

5 reis, black.	25 reis, pink.
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**DENMARK.**—On the 3d ultimo appeared, after the type of the 48 sk., figured last August, a 2 skilling, blue; 3 sk., violet; 8 sk.,

brown; and 16 sk., green; the central parts being gray in all the values.

VICTORIA.—The current blue sixpenny of this colony, on white paper, has made its appearance, erroneously watermarked, FOUR PENCE.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The last Australian mail brought a specimen of a stamp in use in these islands; it is oblong, printed black on white, inscribed, FIJI ISLANDS, POSTAGE SIXPENCE, similar to the letter-press stamps in use in the Sandwich Islands.—*Philatelist*.

### THE STAMP TRADE.

A week's visit to New York among the dealers in postage stamps has convinced us that this traffic is increasing rapidly. In one large establishment, we witnessed a pleasing sight. Seated at a long table were persons of every age, enthusiastically scanning the dealer's stock. Three persons were constantly engaged in assorting and counting the stamps, while a cashier behind a wire-protected desk was busy taking in the fractional currency. Albums of every kind and value lined the shelves; some particularly fine ones retailing for the modest sum of fifty dollars! In the show window front was a huge inverted cornucopia, from whose capacious mouth thousands of postage stamps were protruding. From the crowds entering and leaving this establishment, daily, we should suppose the business unusually profitable. Other dealers, in stores and at the street stands, were crowded with customers, and we left New York strongly and strangely impressed with the encouraging state of this new and infatuating trade, destined to take equal rank, at some day, with the more important branches of trade in this country.

### UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Continued.)

- C. Matches, rect., 1 cent, red.
- Dr. Crook's Wine of Tar, oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Collins Bros., St. Louis, Mo., oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Cramer & Kemp, Excelsior Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, blue.
- Chicago Match Co., rect., 3 cents, black.
- Dalley's Galvanic Horse Salve, oblong, 2 cents, green.
- Dalley's Magical Pain Extractor, oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Perry Davis & Son, rect., 1 cent, blue; 2 cents, red brown; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, brown.
- A. Dougherty, New York, rect., 2 cents, yellow; 4 cents, black; 5 cents, blue; 10 cents, blue.
- P. H. Drake & Co., New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Duponca's Golden Periodical Pills, New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.

(To be continued.)



# ADVERTISEMENTS.

## Miscellaneous Coins and Medals, for Sale, April 1, 1871.

Obv., a figure, representing Hope, presenting two children (typical of Peace and Plenty) to Goddess of Liberty, "British settlement of Kentucky, 1796;" rev., "Copper Company of Upper Canada, One Half Penny;" beautiful bronze proof; extremely rare. . .	\$40 00
Washington Cent; large eagle; good, . . . . .	5 00
U. S. Cent, 1799; fair condition. date plain, . . . . .	6 00
U. S. Cent, 1799; very poor, . . . . .	2 00
U. S. Cent, 1793; good, . . . . .	3 50
U. S. Cent, 1793; fair, . . . . .	2 00
U. S. Cent, 1793; poor, . . . . .	1 50
U. S. Half Cent, 1793; fine, . . . . .	5 00
Louisiana Penny, without the countermark R. F., rare; good, . . . . .	2 50
U. S. Silver Dollar, 1795; fillet head; fine, . . . . .	3 50
U. S. Silver Dollar, 1795; flowing hair; good, . . . . .	2 00
U. S. Dollars, 1796 and 1797; good; each, . . . . .	2 00
U. S. Half Dollar, 1795; good, . . . . .	1 00
U. S. Cent, 1804; fair; date plain, . . . . .	2 50
Georgius Triumpho, 1783; fine, . . . . .	5 00
Vermont Cent, 1786; baby head; good, . . . . .	1 50
French Medals; bronze; proofs; 50 different issues; size 24; each, . . . . .	75
Grant Medal; white metal; believed to be <i>unique</i> ; similar in size to the U. S. Mint Twelve Dollar Medal; beautiful proof, . . . . .	20 00
Madison Medal; "Industry brings plenty;" white metal; nearly half an inch thick; slightly injured; size 40, . . . . .	3 00
General Naglee Medal; for Fair Oaks; bronze; proof; extremely rare; issued only to a few subscribers, and suppressed; size 36, . . . . .	15 00
Washington Allston Medal, 1847; bronze; proof; rare; size 40, . . . . .	3 00
Governor Isaac Shelby Medal; battle of the Thames; bronze; proof; size 40, . . . . .	1 25
Commodore Stewart Medal; Levant and Cyane; bronze; proof; size 40, . . . . .	1 25
Grant Medal; rev., "Inaugurated," etc.; white metal; proof; size 32, . . . . .	75
Washington Sansom Medal; "Presidency relinquished;" white metal; proof; size 32, . . . . .	1 00
Tyler Medal; clasped hands; bronze; proof; size 40, . . . . .	1 25
Gilbert Stuart Medal, 1848; bronze; proof; rare; size 40, . . . . .	3 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

## United States Postage and Fractional Currency.

Shield, containing full set of all the different issues, . . . . . \$6 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

## Postage Stamp Albums, &c.

Scott's American Album, oblong, cloth, . . . . .	\$2 50
Lallier's French Album, oblong, cloth, . . . . .	5 00
Lallier's French Album, oblong, gilt, . . . . .	6 00
Scott's Album for beginners, including Catalogue of Prices, . . . . .	50
Albums for . . . . . \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$10 and 50 00	
Mason & Co.'s Priced Stamp Catalogue, . . . . .	25

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

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## Rare Coins.

1841; Half Cent; brilliant proof, . . . . .	\$10 00
1847; Half Cent; brilliant proof, . . . . .	25 00
1793; Cent; without date, . . . . .	50
1793; Cent; showing date, . . . . .	1 50
1793; Cent; good, . . . . .	3 50
1799; Cent; very fair, . . . . .	6 00
1804; Cent; very poor, . . . . .	1 50
1804; Cent; very fair, . . . . .	3 00
1804; Cent; good, . . . . .	5 00
Roman <u>Silver</u> Coins, . . . . .	50
Roman Copper Coins, . . . . .	15

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

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## United States Proof Sets.

1859 to 1869; complete; each, . . . . .	\$6 00
1870, . . . . .	5 00
1871, . . . . .	4 50

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

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## Aluminum Set of United States Coins.

We have a full Set of Aluminum Coins of 1868—16 Pieces—from \$20 to \$1 Gold Pieces; \$1 to 3c. Silver Pieces; 5c. to 1c. Nickel and Bronze Pieces. Price, \$100 for the set. Beautiful proofs in a twelve dollar glass and morocco case.

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

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## American Rebellion Tokens and Store Cards.

(ISSUED DURING THE CIVIL WAR.)

100 Tokens; different issues, . . . . .	\$2 00
100 Cards; different issues, . . . . .	2 00

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

# MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

## MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

APRIL, 1871.

No. 4.

### NOVEL PETITION.

The following document, endorsed "Petition of 8 Scoundrels to the Hon. Provincial Congress," is an interesting revolutionary paper in the liberal acceptation of the term. It is written on two pages foolscap and endorsed by Provincial Congress, May 24, 1775, when a committee was appointed by Congress to investigate the matter.

*To the Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, sitting in Congress at Wattertown.*  
[This with care.]

Gentlemen Representatives of this province:

Know doubt, it is a truth acknowledged among men that god his placd men in greater and lower stations in life, and that Inferiours are morally Bound to obey their Superiors in all their lawful commands. But, altho our king is our Superior yet his commands are unlawful. Therefore, we are not bound to obey but are in providence cald to rise up against such tiranical usurpations, and our province at this difficult Day is Necessited to chuse Representatives and officers to Rule as king over us, To which we cheerfully submit in all things, lawful or just and count it our happiness; but if their laws are greavious to bare, then the agreaved is by the same rule authorized to rise up in opposition to said laws, and there his been some acts made for the regulation of the army and his been so short lifd, and new acts in stead thereof that it his constraiind many to with draw; others, viz.: Companies and Ragiments Apparently broke or throne into confusion and by those that remain Here are much Duty Required, to which we, animated from a spirit of Liberty, would chearfully submit provided we had sufficient support from day to day. We many times have drawn such roten stiakin meat that the smell is sufficient to make us lothe the same, and provided the provision would be good. A pound of meat and a pound of bread, with what small quantity of sase we at some times draw, is fare from being sufficient food for a Labouring man during 24 hours, the truth of which we have experiencd to our cost as necessity his constraiind us to buy from day to day until our money fails; and is not this a means of driving away men that other wise would stay and keeping away men that other wise would come. Pray let not our case be parilel to the case of the Isarelites when in bondege to the Egyptianes, who required the tale of breek but gave no straw. If you require the tale of work or deauty from us give us wharewith all to live upon. Their is a large Number of men in various Ragements that resents their treatment with regard to provision so fare that they have sworn by the god that made them that if the cannot have a sufficient support they will Either raise a mob and go to the general and Demand provision and obtain it that way, or they will swing their packs Emediately and go home boldly throu all the guards. If the reality of the above is scrupled, surely the truth may be

known by the colonel's applying to the solders, and, if we should be constrained to take any of the above Extremes, dos it not look like great confusion, yea, a fore runner of our fall and we become a pray to devouring unnatural cruel enemies of our liberties and religion, and now we would humbly request the congress as they regard the welfare of the provence, our lives and liberties and the religion we profess, that they would remove out of the way at least this one difficulitie, which otherwise his the appearance of making an emediate contention or rebellion in the camp. We not only write in our names but in the name and behalf of many whome we represent and that the congress may have wisdom from a bove to act in such a difficult day is the sincere desire of them who as yet remains yours to save.

Roxbury, may ye 23, 1775.

ELIPHELET BARNS,  
TIMOTHY TITUS,  
STEPHEN WILLES,  
JAMES WILLARD,  
WILAM BENNETT,  
ISAAC PITS,  
JONAH FULER,  
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

In Provin. Congress, May 24, 1775,

Ordered, That Maj. Brooks, Coll. Thompson and Coll. Witchel be a committee to take this Petition into their consideration—that they enquire into the cause of the complaint therein set forth and make a Report as soon as may be.

SAM. FREEMAN, SECR'Y P. C.

In Provincial Congress, Watertoun, May 25, 1775,

Ordered, That the within Petition be sent to General Thomas, and that he be and hereby is directed to enquire into the causes of the complaint therein contained, and take proper measures for the Redress of the Petitioners.

SAM. FREEMAN, SECR'Y P. C.

#### UNPUBLISHED LETTERS RELATING TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR—1775-6.

We have in our possession and for sale the following interesting original letters, written and signed by the authors—quarto size, one page.

MONTREAL, May 8, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL—Inclosed is a letter, just came to hand, from Gen. Schuyler. You will excuse the liberty I have taken to open it, as I imagined it contained intelligence absolutely necessary for me to know. I beg leave to congratulate you on the prospect of reinforcements ariving soon. I shall forward you all the tents & other articles here which you may have occation for. I shall follow in a day or two. Hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you. I have thought proper to send by this post as the intelligence contained in the letter may possibly alter your plan of operation. The General goes from Chamble, to-morrow, & a vessell will be sent of in the morning. No flour below. I am, with great respect, D'r General, your obe'd. h'ble s

B. ARNOLD.

Major Gen. Thomas.

CAMBRIDGE, May 14, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS—Please to send by the Bearer all the Letters and Papers belonging to the late Gov. Hutchinson and enquire if one Dr. Jennings, now in your camp, brought any other yesterday from Milton.

I am, respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOS. WARREN.

HEAD QUARTERS, 2 o'clock, 11th July, 1775.

SIR—The General is extremely pleased with the Vigilance of the officers at your Post, and is much obliged to you for your speedy conveyance of all intelligence of the motions of the Enemy. What further discoveries you can make of this late motion of their Ships, you will, as early as possible, communicate to The Commander in Chief, with any information you may think necessary to forward. The General believes you will think with him that Firing at Single Centinels of Enemy can (besides it being in General an exploded custom) answer no good End, & may possibly prevent Desertion; that being your Sentiment, The General wishes you to order that, for the Future, there be no Firing upon single Centinels. With great Esteem, I am, Sir, your most obedient Humble Servant,

HORATIO GATES.

*To Major General Thomas.*

TRENTON, March ye 10th, 1776.

D'R GENERAL—Major Dunbar, now a Prisoner of War in this place, is one of the oldest, most intemate and dearest friends I have in the world. We were bred up in the same Regiment; in short, I consider his interest as mine. He has a wife and children at Montreal, whom I must recommend most warmly to your protection—indeed, I must insist that you will consider and treat this Lady and her Children exactly as, I flatter myself, you would if they stood in the same relation to me as they do to my friend. Adieu, D'r General, I wish you health, success and glory, and am, most sincerely, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

*To Major General Thomas.*

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 2, '75.

SIR—I am repeatedly hearing Heavy Cannon, which seem to be in your Quarter, & it is supposed that your Bell has been Ringing. If any Thing extraordinary, please to inform me.

I am, sir, most humble serv't,

ARTEMAS WARD.

*To the Hon. Gen. Thomas, in Roxbury.*

SIR—The kind civilities I received from you at Cambridge merit my most sincere acknowledgements, and I assure you, sir, that I retain the most grateful sense for the same. I take this early opportunity to inform you that the Honorable Congress have been pleased to honour me with the rank of a Brigadier general, and what renders this appointment more agreeable to me is the pleasure I shall have to serve under your command in Canada. I shall set out in two days for New York, and from thence to Canada with the Delegates. I beg you will be pleased to continue me the honour of your favor & Esteem.

I am, with the greatest consideration, sir,

Your mo: obed't humbl' serv't,

PHILADA., March 23, 1776.

BARON DE WOEDTKE.

*To the Honourable John Thomas, Esq.*

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 9, 1775.

SIR—His excell'y, the General, requests your attendance at Head Quarters precisely at 12 o'clock to-day, to hold a Council of War.

I am, sir, your most h'ble serv't,

JOS. REED, Scout.

*Hon Gen. Thomas.*

RHODE ISLAND CAMP, 21 June, 1775.

Captain Thayer and Lieutenant Black will wait on you to get a pass to go down and reconnoiter the ground the Regulars posts their centry on; they are the Persons, that wanted to go and sieze the centry, that I mentioned to you yesterday. They purpose, if they think it practicable, to make the attempt to-night. If agreeable you'll please to furnish them with a pass for the purpose afore said. I am, sir, with great deference, your honor's most obedient humble servant,

NATHANAEL GREENE.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, December 9th, 1775.

SIR—I am directed by The Hon. The Council to request your Honor to order the Prisoner herewith, George Price, to be safely kept, and, as soon as is convenient to your Honor, send him to Plymouth Goal, with the inclosed mittimus, where the Council have seen fit to order him confined till further order.

I am your Honor's most obed't &amp; very humble serv't.

PEREZ MORTON, Dpy. Secry.

*His Honor Gen'l Thomas.*

Sacredly devoted to the cause in which General Thomas is honorably & gloriously active, yet, personal stranger as I am, I should not have taken the present Freedom without the express direction of Capt. Trumbull. New England's God will most assuredly give an after opportunity of an oral acknowledgment of the General's kind condescension this Day to his

most obed't humb. serv't

May 2d, '75.

JAMES LOVELL.

## UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF ROBERT TREAT PAINE.

The following letter, written and signed by R. T. Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence, in fine condition, quarto page, for sale. Address this office.

PHILADA., July 6, 1775.

To John Thomas, Esq., Major General of the American Troops near Boston, p. Collins.

DEAR GEN.—Mr. Stephen Collins, the Bearer hereof, a worthy citizen here & a friend of mankind, being about to visit your camp deserves some credentials of his great merit—his great kindness to our country men & Zeal in the common cause recomend him to notice. Mr. John Haighn, a respectable citizen here & promoter of military skill among the Quakers, travels with him.

I hope y. welfare & success & a full reward for y. military labours. I am, with great regard & affection, y. friend & humble serv.,

R. T. PAINE.

## THE BRITISH MINT.

The British gold coin called a sovereign, of the value of twenty shillings sterling, with a standard weight of 123.374 grains troy, replaced the guinea, in 1817, but was not a new coin. Its name was first given to a gold piece issued in the time of Henry VIII, on which the king was represented, on the *obverse*, in his royal robes. In the reign of George IV, the *reverse* of this piece of money exhibited a spirited St. George and the dragon, designed and cut by Signor Pistrucci, a very able medalist, who was then connected with

the Mint in London. After a lapse of nearly half a century, it was lately determined that, instead of the arms of Great Britain and Ireland, the St. George should be reproduced on the reverse of the sovereign.

This has been done, but the result, judging from the newspaper criticisms, is very far from successful. The St. George is very badly cut, the war horse is out of proportion, and the gold has a pale and sickly look, as if had been touched with quicksilver. The fact is, it has been alloyed, not with copper, which preserves the color of the gold, but with silver, which makes it pale. Formerly, the coinage at the Mint on Tower Hill, London, was performed, by contract, by a company of experts known as "The Moneyers." From 1855 until his recent death, Professor Graham, one of the most eminent chemists of the day was Master of the Mint (having succeeded Sir John Herschell, one of the ablest men of science of modern time), and for the last fifteen years the British coinage has been very good. On his death it was resolved to have no Master of the Mint (that means to have no responsible man over the coinage), to dispense with the Moneyers, and to have the office which Herschell and Graham had filled so well merged into the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, a political appointment always vacated on a change of ministry. Mr. Lowe, who holds the office at present, knows as much of making coins as he does of carving colossal statues out of cherry stones. Hence his failure with the St. George sovereigns.

There is a lesson in this failure, if people will only learn it. To transfer the making of coin from experienced to inexperienced hands, from the Mint to the Treasury, has been a great mistake in England, and would be a great mistake here. Our coinage is absolutely perfect in its kind, it contains the legal quantity of metal of a certain value in each cast, the dies from which it is worked are delicately cut, and the impressions are sharp and clear. Let us hope that legislation, which meddles with so many things, without mending all of them, will leave our Mint severely alone.

#### LIST OF TYPES MOST COMMONLY FOUND ON GREEK AUTONOMOUS COINS.

COMPILED BY E. M., M. D.

##### SICILIA.

- Zancle*.—A dolphin, or a sickle.  
*Messana*.—A rabbit.  
*Mamertini*.—A warrior with lance and buckler.  
*Tauromenium*.—A bull butting.  
*Syracuse*.—Head of Proserpine.  
*Camarina*.—Leda. A lizard, etc.  
*Catana*.—A bull. A fish. A prawn.  
*Gelas*.—A bull with a human head.  
*Agrigentum*.—A crab.  
*Himera*.—A cock.

*Leontini*.—A female holding two ears of corn.

*Panormus*.—A horse. A horse's head.

*Selinus*.—A leaf of wild parsley.

*Segesta*.—A dog.

## ITALIA.

*Bruttium*.—A naked warrior. An eagle. The dioscurii.

*Rhegium in Bruttium*.—Apollo. A lion's head.

*Caulonia in Bruttium*.—A man holding a branch. A fawn.

*Crotona in Bruttium*.—A tripod.

*Sybaris in Lucania*.—A bull standing in repose.

*Thurium in Lucania*.—A bull butting.

*Velia in Lucania*.—A lion.

*Posidonia in Lucania*.—Neptune.

*Heraclea in Lucania*.—Hercules strangling the Nemean lion.

*Metapontum in Lucania*.—An ear of wheat.

*Tarentum in Calabria*.—Youth riding a dolphin. A cockle shell.

*Neapolis in Campania*.—The minotaur.

*Cales in Campania*.—A cock.

*Populonia in Etruria*.—A lion.

## AFRICA.

*Cyrene*.—The silphium, a plant of the region.

*Carthage*.—A horse head and palm tree.

## ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

*Sardinia*.—Three ears of corn on one stalk.

*Gaulos*.—A tripod.

*Melita in Melita*.—A mythic figure with four wings.

*Cydonia in Crete*.—A wolf suckling a child.

*Cnossus in Crete*.—The labyrinth.

*Gortyna in Crete*.—Europa on the bull.

*Leucadia*.—The prow of a vessel.

*Zacynthus*.—Æsculapius on a rock, with a serpent.

## ILLYRIUM.

*Dyrrachium*.—Gardens of Alcinous. Cow suckling her calf.

*Appolonia*.—Cow suckling her calf.

## MACEDONIA.

*Macedonia in general*.—Head of Diana.

*Amphipolis*.—A torch in a kind of stand.

*Lete*.—Silenus or centaur carrying off a female.

*Thessalonica*.—A female standing.

*Acanthus*.—Fore part of a bull. Lion springing on a bull.

## THRACE.

*Byzantium*.—A crescent and stars.

*Cardia*.—A heart. Fore part of a lion, etc.

*Ænos*.—A goat.

*Maronea*.—A bunch of grapes. Fore part of a horse.

*Abdera*.—A lyre. A griffon.

*Mesembria*.—A crescent.

(To be continued.)



## AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.**(Continued.)*

The bent of Mr. Peale's genius towards mechanics was developed at a very early period. While quite young, he became distinguished as a manufacturer of all the usual apparatus for games, and many curious toys. As a school boy, he demonstrated a fondness for surveying as well as mechanics—in the interval of school hours surveying his father's farm, near Germantown, and developing also the water power of some neighboring streams.

At the age of seventeen, he entered the factory of Hodgson & Bro., on the Brandywine, Delaware, to learn machine making. From his industry, patience and neatness, he rose superior to his teachers. He became skilful as a turner and founder, and in the use of tools, and a very excellent draftsman. He there prepared the working drawings for the machines required for a cotton factory at Germantown, and had them constructed under his supervision, and in great part by his personal skill and labor. When barely nineteen, he left Delaware to take charge of the cotton factory just mentioned, of which he had the management for several years. He afterwards removed to Philadelphia, and entered into the establishment of John & Coleman Sellers, making machinery for card sticking.

Mr. Peale now separated himself for a time from the strict line of his profession, and entered upon the management of his father's Museum. For this duty he was well fitted, on account of his administrative abilities, his taste, and his talent for arrangement, as well as by a competent knowledge of the subjects to which it was devoted. The Museum was something more than a place of deposit for birds, beasts and fishes, but was a collection of curiosities in art, in mechanism and in antiquity. Mr. Peale, in the pursuit of his own profession, had not neglected other fields of knowledge. He was ever an ardent student and observer. It was not likely, therefore, that he was unlearned in any of the subjects which the Museum was intended to illustrate, and which he had heard freely discussed from his childhood. While not professing a particular fondness for natural history, he so far mastered the subject as to deliver lectures upon it, availing himself of the special facilities placed at his disposal. His mechanical genius, also, found room for display in adding to the curiosities of the establishment. Many of us will remember his curious speaking toy, besides other ingenious inventions which cannot now be specified.

It was while engaged at the Museum that Mr. Peale placed there a miniature locomotive, the first seen in this country, and manufactured by his friend M. W. Baldwin, on a plan agreed between Mr. Peale and himself. It was put in operation on a track making the circuit of the Arcade, in which the Museum then was, drawing two miniature cars, with seats for four passengers. The valuable aid of Mr. Peale was afterward given to Mr. Baldwin in the construction of the

locomotive for the Philadelphia and Germantown Railroad, in 1832, the success of which led to the establishment of Mr. Baldwin in the great business of his life.

Mr. Peale's position at the Museum was of advantage in bringing his peculiar and varied talents more conspicuously before the public. The establishment was largely visited, often by distinguished men of our own and other cities, and many learned to admire the ingenious young manager. His society and friendship were sought after, and he assumed his proper place as one of the select band then most active among us in the pursuit of science and art.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

### CANADA.

30. C. Obv.—Front view of Bank of Montreal, now occupied by Banque du Peuple. "PROVINCE OF CANADA BANK OF MONTREAL," Rev.—Same as No. 27. This coin is rare. This specimen is the only one we have met with, all the other coins bearing the same view of building being dated 1842.

31. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26, "UN SOU." Rev.—do., do. "HALF PENNY." There are also the three other varieties of this half penny, corresponding with Nos. 27, 28 and 29.

32. C. Obv.—"FRANCIS MULLINS & SON IMPORTERS OF SHIP CHANDLERY & CO MONTREAL." Rev.—Ship in full sail, to the right, "COMMERCE TOKEN." Milled edge.

33. C. Obv.—Two maple leaves crossed. "COMMERCE BAS CANADA." Rev.—Within a wreath, "UN SOU J. ROY MONTREAL." Scarce in good condition.

34. C. Obv.—Within a circle, a cask; above "BREWERS," below "DISTILLERS, &C., &C., &C." On either sides, "UN SOU." Without the circle, "TH<sup>S</sup> & W<sup>M</sup> MOLSON MONTREAL." Rev.—Within a circle, distillery apparatus, etc. "CASH PAID FOR ALL SORTS OF GRAIN 1837." Milled edge. Scarce.

35. C. Obv.—Same as No. 25, without the date. Rev.—"T. S. BROWN & CO IMPORTERS OF HARDWARE MONTREAL."

36. Obv.—A tea kettle between a vice and hand saw; above, a scythe blade and spade crossed; below, a knife and fork crossed. Rev.—"J. SHAW & CO IMPORTERS OF HARDWARES UPPER TOWN QUEBEC." Milled edge.

37. C. Obv.—Ship in full sail to right. "FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION." Rev.—CANADA HALF PENNY TOKEN," in four lines.

38. C. Obv.—Boquet consisting of roses, thistle, shamrock and wheat. 1 rose and bud, 3 shamrocks, 5 rose leaves and 1 head of wheat to right. 2 thistles, 2 thistle leaves, 1 head of wheat and 2 shamrocks to left. Large thistle leaf in centre of boquet; the head

of wheat on right bends immediately over the rose; the whole bound with ribbon having bow to right and two ends to left. "AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE \* BAS-CANADA \* " Rev.—Wreath with nine leaves to right and eight to left; between each leaf a small sprig with berry similar to holly. "UN SOU" within wreath. "TOKEN MONTREAL." Edge plain.

39. C. Obv.—Boquet as No. 38. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 3 shamrocks and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistles, 3 shamrocks, 1 head wheat and 4 leaves (probably intended for maple leaves) to left, bound in ribbon, bow to left, ribbon to right. Inscription same as No. 38. Rev.—Wreath of 16 leaves, 8 on either side. Bow connecting them forms a triangle, heavy at the top but smaller towards wreath. Same inscription as No. 38. Over letter "o" in Sou is a small dot. Edge plain.

40. C. Obv.—Boquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 blade of wheat to right; 2 thistle heads with blades of wheat between, 2 thistle leaves, 1 shamrock, 1 head and 2 blades wheat to left; a thistle leaf in centre, reaching two-thirds up boquet; on top a head of wheat slightly inclined to right. Same inscription as No. 38. Rev.—Same as No. 39. Bow somewhat heavier and no dot over the letter "o." Word "MONTREAL" almost touches bottom of wreath. Edge plain.

(To be continued.)

#### DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

*To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.*

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(Continued.)

The conclusion to be drawn from the above arguments is, that, in cabinets of the second class, the collector may mingle the middle with the large brass, as he thinks proper; and in like manner the small with the middle; though it will not be so well to unite such disproportionate sizes as the large and small. In the small sequence, however, there can be no harm in his mixing gold, silver and brass, as chance or curiosity may lead him to purchase any of these metals. And though your starched bigotted medallist may sneer, because such a sequence would controvert his formal and narrow way of thinking, common sense would authorize us to laugh at the pedant in our turn, and to pronounce such a series more various, rich and interesting than if the collector had only arranged one metal and rejected a curious article because he did not collect gold or silver.

Pedantry, in most sciences, is now held in just contempt, but yet reigns in the medallic line in a supreme degree. Nor is it surprising, when it is considered that pedants themselves are the givers of their own silly laws; for, excepting perhaps half a dozen instances, books

upon this subject have only been written by men lost in the pedantry of numismatic erudition.

In like manner, if, in the modern part of the smaller cabinet, any coin of a series is of high price, or of bad impression, there can be no impropriety in putting another of the same reign, which is cheaper or better executed, though of a different denomination, and a little larger size. In short, the collector has no rules, but in the Greek cities and Roman families to observe alphabetical order and chronology in every thing else.

To assist a selection of a casket of medals no directions can be given, fancy being the only law. The arrangements may, however, be managed by the observations already made upon the two higher descriptions.

*(To be continued.)*

### THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

*(Continued.)*

The next article brought forth was a tin box. There was no way to ascertain whether the box was originally intended for pills or matches. There was every reason to believe that the original "Pandora's box" had been found. But, on opening it, there was discovered a sealed paper containing gems, thirteen small diamonds of the finest water and four large pearls. A small piece of paper in the box had written upon it this interesting bit of information: "These jewels had originally been presented to Martin Van Buren, but had been stolen from a case in the Patent Office on the night of November 8, 1848." These unfortunate gems convey a most useful lesson. If Mistress Van Buren had worn her jewels, instead of placing them where thieves break in and steal away, she would have set an illustrious example, and the country would have been no poorer than it is to-day.

The second box when opened contained counterfeit coins and dies. These had been deposited by M. C. Young, Esq., and they had been received from agents employed to detect counterfeiters. These bore the date of May 10, 1847. These relics were interesting to show how far in advance of their forefathers are the counterfeiters of to-day. Counterfeit greenbacks are made so perfect that it takes adepts employed purposely for the business to detect them, and they have to perform their work by the aid of the microscope. These counterfeit gold and silver coins could not deceive an infant of this generation.

The first package opened contained Confederate bills, bonds and small currency.

The second package were the spoils won by the United States in a lawsuit. This bundle of papers was found to consist of bonds received from Messrs. Redin and Fendall, per Henry May, amount \$96,276 33, being the same received by them from Corcoran & Riggs on decree in case of United States versus Gardiner. Bonds of the

State of Tennessee. Date of the oldest coupon due July 1, 1857. The Treasurer gave Mr. May a receipt herefor, and is directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to hold these bonds until he shall decide as to entries, etc. Dated April 9, 1855.

The third package was marked \$24,963. Upon examination, the mark and contents did not exactly coincide.

The fourth package contained bonds, loan of 1848, returned October 10, 1857, marked \$3000.

Next in order came a box containing notes of the survey of boundary between the United States and Mexico, under treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, from junction of Gila and Colorado, to Pacific coast, deposited by Brevet Captain Hardcastle, United States Navy Topographical Engineers, June 11, 1852.

Fifth package, marked \$3,059 64. On the outside wrapper was written, "Received of A. Smith, Cashier of the Bank of the Metropolis, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, the within uncurrent funds, which had been held by the said bank on special deposit, consisting of uncurrent bank notes."

(To be continued.)

#### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst-Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

A still cheaper material for Cameos has been found in glass. It is prepared by cementing together two layers of different colors. The figures are cut upon the glass in the same manner that all cut-glass ware is decorated. If done carefully they look extremely well.

But to revert to the Onyx itself—it is a stone known from the earliest times. The Bible calls it the "Stone of Stones," and in China it is said to be reserved for the Emperor exclusively.

The name of this stone is derived from a Greek word, identical in its spelling, signifying the finger-nail, a derivation which (if the word was then as now applied only to those specimens of calcedony formed of white and black streaks) would seem to indicate that this god-like race were accustomed to wear theirs in mourning!

In the Green Vault at Dresden is an Onyx valued on account of its clearness, and reckoned to be worth forty-eight thousand thalers. It is regarded as one of the principal curiosities in this collection. There is a very slight flaw in it, but the artists dared not cut it deeper, under the apprehension that, though they might thus make it a perfect gem, they might also make the original imperfection more perceptible. It is about three inches long and of nearly the same width.

Appianus says that Mithridates, King of Pontus, had two thousand cups made of this stone among his household treasures.

Both the Greeks and the Romans carried the Art of Cameo, as well as Intaglio, engraving to the highest pitch of perfection, and the Italians, as successors to the latter, are at the present day the most skilful cutters existing. Between the best antique and modern Cameos it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to tell the difference, and even the greatest connoisseurs are at fault.

The Apotheosis of Augustus is a celebrated historical Cameo, of very large diameter, comprising four layers, two white and two brown, which skilfully turned to account. It is not within our limits, however, to give individual descriptions of celebrated Cameos, as they exist in so great numbers.

It may be asked what peculiar force is contained in the word Cameo, when the expression, relieve engraving, seems to cover the whole ground. The answer is that the word Cameo, whatever may have been the origin of the word, implies now not only a figure in relief, but the ground upon which it rests is of a different color from the figure itself. A Medallion is in no case a Cameo, nor would an artificial coloring of any portion of it render it so. The diversity of tints of the Cameo, it is understood, must be natural, or at least an imitation of some natural production.

Intaglio is the term used to express an engraving sunk below the surface of the stone, as is required for a seal, in order to reproduce the subject in relief in impressions upon wax.

*(To be continued.)*

#### A REMARKABLE GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

A genuine "bone cave" has been found at last in America. Its locality is on the Reading railroad, near Phoenixville, Pa. Fortunately for science, the cave is on the estate of Mr. Wheatley, who is an excellent naturalist. Prof. Cope and he are now investigating its rich harvest of bones, among which are a mastodon's tusk eleven feet long, the bones of the great cave bear, those of a megalonyx (a gigantic sloth), those of a rhinoceros and those of a curious little horse. Great interest attaches to the inquiry whether this little horse that lived on the Atlantic border in pre-glacial time was identical with the diminutive horse whose bones are found in the sunken lands of Nebraska, and whether this Pennsylvania sloth shall prove to be of the same kind as that whose bones Washington found in a nitre cave of Virginia. The Virginia sloth was supposed to be post-glacial. The bones in this Phoenixville cave are overlaid with glacial drift. We have examined in the Philadelphia Academy a section of the cave drawn by Prof. Cope. This section tells its own story. The animals whose remains are entombed in the cave, lived before the epoch of the great northern drift. In those remote times, America seems to have been the land of the horse, the rhinoceros, the elephant and the camel. If this horse should prove to be new, it will be the eighteenth species known to have lived in America before the drift period. We do not understand that any human remains or any implements fashioned by

human hands have been found in the Phœnixville cave. At this stage of the investigation, we cannot say that discovery throws any light on the question of the antiquity of the human race.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. M., Boston.—You may have a United States half cent of 1812—it is not improbable; but, somebody else has the other half, and the two pieces joined together would make a whole cent of 1812. The joke has been played on us before. The custom of cutting or breaking gold and silver coins is very ancient, and originated with the Athenians. A coin was divided in halves, one half retained by the native of Attica, the other given to the stranger whose acquaintance he had made. The bearer of the symbol, whether one of the original parties or only a friend, was entitled to all the rites of hospitality from the owner of the other half. In modern times, coins were cut by lovers as tokens of affection or engagement symbols, and this practice will, no doubt, account for the many odd halves of coin met with at the dealers' stores. These broken coins, "pledges of love," are frequently referred to in poem and story.

O. L. BOOTH, Canastota.—It is impossible for us to fill your orders when you neglect to put your name or locality to your letters. Three letters containing money received from you *unsigned*. We have refunded the eleven dollars at your request. Put the saddle on the right horse and all things will hereafter be serene.

P. R. L., Milwaukie.—The coins are not guaranteed genuine in the sale of the 3d, 4th and 5th. If you send bids to the auctioneer, you must take your chances. If sent to us *hereafter*, we will be responsible if the coins you buy should prove bogus, and refund the money. For this responsibility we charge ten per cent.

SUBSCRIBERS.—We cannot supply January number of this year. Subscriptions commence with February number.

T. R. M., Ravenna, O.—Having received bids from you on two occasions for public sales, and forwarded bills of purchases made by your order, we think our duty has been accomplished. When you forward amount of your last bill, sale of January 16 and 17, your duty will be partially performed.

R. P. & SON, Deersville.—Money received.

S. T., Vineland.—Sets of United States cents we sell for \$25. All prior to 1814 in ordinary condition, excepting 1793, 1799 and 1804, which are poor; 1816 to 1857, good. Better sets \$40 and \$50, and \$100 for a very good set.

#### REDEMPTION OF COINS.

The United States Mint, by a recent Act of Congress, redeem all the old copper cents and half cents, when presented in sums of twenty dollars. We would like all our readers to forward to this office, at our expense, all U. S. cents dating prior to 1814, for which we will pay a premium.

## PROSPECTIVE COIN SALES.

Bangs, Merwin & Co., 694 Broadway, New York, will sell an English collection of foreign coins, numbering some 1758 lots, on the 3d, 4th and 5th insts. Full particulars of sale in next number. Catalogue of this sale priced for \$2, when forwarded to this office. A small sale of choice coins will come off at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s, on the 8th inst. A sale of ancient and modern gold, silver and copper coins will take place at Geo. A. Leavitt & Co.'s sales rooms, Astor Place, New York, on the 12th inst.

## VALUE OF ANCIENT COINS.

Tetradrachms of Antiochus were sold at the Packer sale, in New York, for \$15; an Alexander brought \$10; a Ptolemy, \$13 50; a Roman aes or pound piece, \$10; other rare and fine Greek and Roman coins sold equally as high, an evidence of the increasing value of ancient coins.

## PACKER SALE CATALOGUES.

Our charge for pricing the catalogues of the Packer coin sale has been fixed at \$3.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

## NEW ISSUES.

**FRANCE.**—We hear from our Parisian correspondent that none of the numerous varieties of balloon-post envelopes, etc., are official; but were printed by private firms for public convenience; also that the 10 c., 20 c. and 40 c. of the republic, perforated, were the only ones struck off in Paris. We have seen several varieties of hue, etc., other than those yet chronicled; but think it will be confusing to note them until they can be regularly and finally classed. There would seem to be some modification in the postage from France; because a letter reached us bearing 24 centimes only, viz., a 20 c. of the Empire, and two of the 2 c. of a redder brown than usual. No more of the republics will be prepared till the exhaustion of the Imperial stock.

**PORTUGAL.**—In addition to the two values chronicled last month, are now issued a 10 reis, yellow, and a 50 r., green.

**MEXICO.**—M. Moens quotes the the current 50 centavos in black, on greenish-yellow paper, both perforate and otherwise; also, a 2 reales, lilac, of Guadalajara, date 1868, on thick laid paper.

**CASHMERE.**—M. Moens also notes the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna of the 1866 on laid paper, in ad diiton to that of 1867 previously known.

**SPAIN.**—M. Moens possesses copies of the 1855 1 real in pure green, not bluish, as usually seen. They are on satin paper, and bear the curled watermark.



VICTORIA.—The same authority gives one of the current four penny adhesives, undoubtedly imperforate, watermarked 4 in single lines.

AZORES.—We have seen a variety of the black 5 reis, now superseded, in thin letters of a medium size between those usually employed and the smallest. The color is puce.

LUXEMBOURG.—The Belgian magazine announces the suppression of the 37½ centimes, and that of the 2 c. and 30 c. on the exhaustion of the present stock; also, the preparation of a value or values above the highest now used in the Duchy, and proportionately larger.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The *Timbre Post* chronicles a medio real, and an un real, salmon colored on pelure paper.—*Philatelist*.

### POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTING.

One of the things I could and never can thoroughly understand is the passion that inspires some people in the collection of matters utterly worthless in themselves, and of no conceivable value as works of art or curiosity. For instance, the desire to gather together old postage stamps is singularly common. Within the past four or five years so many persons in this city have been bitten by this peculiar fancy that old postage stamps have become as rare, and almost as precious, as old gold. Those who hoard them up insert them with fastidious care in a volume prepared for the purpose, and exhibit them with an air of triumphant pride that is exhilarating to philosophy. They could not show off a row of marble-fronted warehouses on Broadway with a greater display of exultation. Some of them prefer to make a collection of all the postage stamps of all nations that indulge in such luxurious postal appliances, and then, of course, they do present a museum of some interest, for it involves a notion of the artistic and picturesque. But it cost much less to gather together an assortment of American postage stamps, and it is surprising what a fascination even children can find in such a pursuit! One would suppose that in accumulating these old stamps they were secretly amassing a fortune. Some of them, in fact, are so bewitched with the operation that they actually steal an old stamp to complete a collection of such curiosities, and a youth of the scarce and poetic name of Smith really was arrested here the other day for trying to pilfer some of these invaluable novelties! A Mr. Scott, in Nassau street, who is a retailer of such things, detected Smith in stealing ten dollars' worth while pretending a desire to purchase one dollar's worth, and the little rascal confessed that he was in habit of helping himself *sans ceremonie*, and could not avoid it. He was a victim of kleptomaniac, in the matter of stamps. The magistrate said he would stamp it out of him, and transferred him to the Tombs.

We copy the above article from Du Solle's New York correspondence to the Philadelphia *Sunday Dispatch*, March 26. Du Solle's understanding in reference to postage stamp collecting is very limited. This correspondent confines his appreciation of a collection of postal issues to the matter of their value as pieces of paper, and their utter want of value "as works of art or curiosity." We reply, for said correspondent's instruction, that certain postage stamps possess a marketable value similar to other articles of trade in fact, all genuine stamps, used or unused, have their price like all articles of commodity whose value is fixed by supply and demand. In reference to the merit and value of postage stamps as works of art and curiosity,

we feel constrained to believe that Du Solle has never had the pleasure to fix and feast his critical eyes upon a collection of these interesting, artistic and, in many cases, curious postal issues. For beauty of design and artistic skill, many of the postage stamps of Europe and America exhibit beauties and merits before which the works of some of our best manipulators of the pencil and brush, in other branches of the fine arts, pale, and whose superiority has been admitted by many of our best art critics. Curiosities in the postal line are so often remarked upon that we can only refer this correspondent to any dealer's store where he can gaze to the fill upon the stamps of Egypt, China, Moldavia, Cashmere, Turkey, Africa and others. We regret that this correspondence exhibits the fact for the first time that rogues have entered the ranks of the philatelic fraternity; although the temptation to a poor lad, to complete a series of stamps, by theft was great, and though it does not condone the crime it excites sympathy for the criminal whose offence might have been remedied by a recompense to the dealer and a reprimand, instead of branding the enthusiastic but misguided lad a *thief*, and making in all probability his future life one of misery and degradation.

#### POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS.

An ingenious Philadelphia philatelist is about to apply for a patent for a mechanical postage stamp album, on the revolving plan, which has two advantages over the ordinary album—self securing or a new method of holding the stamps without gumming, and a new plan of exhibiting the stamps, novel if not useful.

#### NEW POSTAL STAMPS.

The seven cent U. S. postage stamps, referred to in preceding numbers of this journal, are in the hands of the Post-Master General, and will be ready for delivery early this month. These stamps are to be used exclusively between Germany and the United States—the postage on letters to and from Germany having been fixed at seven cents. A description of this novelty will be presented in a future number, a *promised* specimen not having arrived in season for this issue of the journal.

#### UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Continued.)

Jas. Eaton, Utica, N. Y., rect., 1 cent, black.

P. Eichele & Co., St. Louis, Mo., Matches, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Excelsior Water Proof Match, Baltimore, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Aug. Eichele & Co., St. Louis, Mo., Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.

E. R. T. Matches, rect., 1 cent, green.

Petridge & Co., Balm of 1000 Flowers, New York, hexagonal, 2 cents, vermilion.

(To be continued.)

## Colonial Paper Money.

Pennsylvania 3d, 4d, 9d, 18d, 1s, 2s; April 10, 1777; good; each,	\$ 12
Pennsylvania 4s, 6s, 8s; April 10, 1777; good; each,	15
Pennsylvania 12s, 16s, 20s; red notes; April 10, 1777; good; each,	15
Delaware 4s, 5s, 6s, 10s; clean; January 1, 1776; each,	25
New Jersey 18d; clean; December 31, 1763,	15
New Jersey 2s; red notes; clean; March 25, 1776,	20
New Jersey 3s; red notes; clean; March 25, 1776,	25
Maryland \$4; clean; March 1, 1770,	25
Maryland \$6; clean; March 1, 1770,	25
Maryland \$8; clean; March 1, 1774,	25

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## Bank Notes.

25 Northern Local Notes, issued during the Civil War; all fine and different,	\$2 00
10 Northern Local Notes, issued during the Civil War; all fine and different,	1 00
Southern Notes, issued during the Civil War; 10 different issues; good condition,	1 00
Specimen Bank Notes, uncirculated; unsigned; 25 specimens; different,	2 00
Specimen Bank Notes; uncirculated; unsigned; 10 specimens; different,	1 00
Bank Note Sheets; engravers' designs, local scenes, medallions, etc.; 5 sheets,	1 00
Bank Note Sheet,	25

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## Continental Paper Money.

Philadelphia Congress \$½; February 17, 1776; good,	\$ 25
Philadelphia Congress \$½; February 17, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress \$¼; February 17, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress \$¾; February 25, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress \$8, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60, \$80; January 14, 1778; clean; each,	25c. to 35
7 Notes; same as last (set),	2 00

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## New Postage Stamp Album.

American Album, bound in cloth, containing spaces for all stamps, and interleaved with blank pages for new issues. Price, postage paid, \$2 00

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## 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

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## Magazines for Sale.

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

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## Indian Stone Relics, &c.

25 Arrow Points, 20c. each ; lot, . . . . . \$2 00  
12 Arrow Points ; fine ; 20c. each ; lot, . . . . . 2 00  
Stone Axes, slightly imperfect, each, . . . . . 20  
Stone Axes, perfect, . . . . . 1 00 to 2 00  
Large Prints, highly colored, of all the Indian Chiefs of America, . . . 35

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## Minerals.

25 different Specimens of interesting Minerals, . . . . . \$2 00  
50 different Specimens of interesting Minerals, . . . . . 3 50  
Large and handsome ; variegated agates ; each, . . . . . 75

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## Shells.

12 large Shells, various, . . . . . \$3 00  
25 small Shells, various, . . . . . 1 25  
150 smaller Shells, various, . . . . . 2 00  
500 smallest size Shells, various, . . . . . 3 00

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## Flags of All Nations.

Large Sheet, richly colored, . . . . . \$ 25  
Flags and Portraits, Germany, large plate, just out, in colors, . . . 50  
Mason & Co.'s Coin Priced Catalogue, . . . . . 25

**MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.**

*MASON'S*  
COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'  
MAGAZINE.

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Vol. 5.

MAY, 1871.

No. 5.

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CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY AND ITS IMITATIONS.

Every American has more or less traditional information of the suffering occasioned by fluctuations of Continental bills of credit during the Revolutionary war. No other medium for the payment of public obligations being within the command of Congress for a long time, the most patriotic citizens, who most cheerfully furnished services and supplies for carrying on the war, were severely scourged by its depreciation and downfall. To destroy the credit of the Continental money was one of the leading objects of the British government and its immission. Impressed with the idea that Congress possessed no other means for waging active warfare, they supposed that when its credit was destroyed the war must cease on the part of the rebels. Hence the immense flood of counterfeit Continental bills put in circulation by the British and Tories, in every part of the continent when they had a footing.

Large as was the amount of Continental bills authorized by Congress, say about \$300,000,000, it has been generally estimated by those best acquainted with the subject, that the enemy put in circulation false bills to at least three fold that amount. They were given gratis to the Tories in New York in any sum they might choose to carry away with them. They were scattered broadcast from Canada over New England, wherever the British army held a post and was in communication with those disaffected to the American cause. Counterfeited Continental money was spread from that point over the whole surrounding region. It was so difficult for men in the ordinary walks of life to distinguish between the true and false bills that the design of the enemy in destroying their credit was finally successful, but did not result in stopping the war as they had projected. Means were found for carrying it to a most triumphant issue; but it left the country impoverished and exhausted from its sacrificed exertions.— One of the most powerful influences in favor of the adoption of the Federal Constitution was the necessity for some provision for the Revolutionary debt, and one of the first measures of Congress was to make that provision.

By the funding Act of August 4, 1790, it was provided that, until September 30, 1791, the various descriptions of public securities then

outstanding might be funded at the Treasury or with the Commissioner of Loans appointed in each State, for which stock was to be issued. For the principal of such debt, so funded, 6 per cent. stock was issued, a part of which carried interest from 1791, and the balance, called deferred stock, carried interest from 1801. Under this act, Continental bills might be funded at \$100 in bills for \$1 in stock. The period for funding these bills and evidence of debt was extended by subsequent laws to June 10, 1794, when it finally expired. From that date to this, a lapse of seventy-seven years, no authority has existed by law for paying or receiving Continental bills at any rate whatever. We occasionally hear of a parcel of Continental bills in the hands of the family of some old Revolutionary soldier. The first question is why were they not funded when legal authority existed. During four years for that purpose in every part of the Union.

It may have been because the amount was small, but it must be recollected that at that time there were runners or agents traversing every part of the country purchasing up these securities at their full money value. There was, therefore, no difficulty in disposing of any sum, however small, if the bills were genuine. Of this, these runners or agents, whose business it was to know the false from the genuine, were fully cognizant. It was useless for them to buy the Continental bills, as they would not be received by the Loan or Treasury offices, who at that time were familiar with them. The presumption, therefore, is that the Continental bills now held by families in various parts of the country are such as could not be funded from not being genuine. The ratio of \$100 for one was much higher than they had passed from hand to hand for many years previously. There could, therefore, be no objection on the score of inadequency of the offer made in the act 1790. The most probable opinion is that at that time, when the public officers could distinguish between the false and genuine bills, those now outstanding were not offered for funding or not funded if offered because they belonged to the former category.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

CANADA.

41. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 5 rose leaves, 1 shamrock and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistle heads with shamrock between 3 shamrocks, 1 rose leaf, 1 head and 1 blade wheat to left. In centre a rose leaf; on top 2 blades wheat parallel to each other and slightly inclined to right. Bow of ribbon to right, ends to left. Same inscription as No. 38. Rev.—Same as No. 39, but bow more flat, and on either side a sprig similar to those between the leaves. Ribbon entwined round stems of wreath. Same inscription, but more space between it and wreath. Milled edge.

42. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 4 rose leaves, 2 shamrocks and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistles, 2 thistle leaves, 3 blades and 1 head wheat, and 1 shamrock to left; in centre, large thistle leaf; on top, blade of wheat slightly bent; stems of bouquet very small. Bow small, to right; long ribbon to left. Same inscription. Rev.—Wreath as in No. 39. Bow very large triangle. Bottom of wreath touches letter "R" in Montreal. Leaves in wreath much closer than in No. 39. Same inscription. Edge plain.

43. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 7 rose leaves, 2 blades and 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 3 blades and 1 head wheat, with large leaf (as in No. 39), to left; a similar leaf turns into centre of bouquet; on top, 1 head and 1 broad blade of wheat, the former inclined to left, the latter to right. 2 blades of wheat to right and left almost touch letters "U" and "T" in Agriculture, and "MM" in Commerce. Slender bow to right; 2 long ribbons to left. Same inscription. Rev.—Wreath of 18 leaves, equally divided with sprigs, etc., between each. Leaves at top of wreath almost meeting. Very small bow, with ribbon encircling ends of wreath, which nearly touch letters "N" and "E" in Montreal. The words "UN SOU" close together. Same inscription. Edge plain.

44. C. Obv.—Same as No. 43, but cracked die crossing letter "O" in Commerce, over top of bouquet, reaching two-thirds across the coin. Rev.—Very open wreath of 17 leaves, 8 to right, 9 to left. No bow, but two of the leaves start from juncture of wreath, extending upwards like letter V, close to letters "S" and "U" in sou. Letters in Un Sou close like No. 43, and small dot over "O." Ends of wreath much spread, extending from letters "N" to "E" in Montreal. Same inscription. Edge plain.

45. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 3 rose leaves, 2 shamrocks, 4 blades and 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 1 head and 2 blades of wheat, 4 leaves (as in No. 39) to left, one of these being between two thistles, the other turned over into the centre; on top, 3 blades wheat, 1 straight, the others bent to right and left. Blade of wheat to left passes between letters "R" and "I" in Agriculture. Bow to right, ribbon to left, inclined downwards. Inscription the same, but more space between words Bas Canada. Rev.—Wreath of 18 leaves, with sprigs between, equally divided; small and flat bow with sprig on either side; top leaves of wreath almost touching. Word Montreal being very close to wreath. Same inscription. Edge plain.

46. C. Obv.—Same as No. 45, but slight difference in arrangement. Rev.—Same as No. 45.

47. C. Obv.—Very open bouquet. Rose, 4 rose leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 blade wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 2 blades and 1 head wheat, 3 leaves same as No. 39, to left; 1 leaf to centre; on top, 1 blade wheat slightly bending to left; long open bow to right; 2 ribbons curved downwards to left. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE; SAS-CANADA." Rev.—Same as No. 45, dot over "O" in Sou.

48. C. Obv.—Bouquet still more open than No. 47. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks, 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles—1 straight upwards—3 shamrocks, 1 blade of wheat which touches top of upper thistle, 1 head wheat immediately above it, 3 leaves as in No. 39, 1 turns over centre on top, 3 blades wheat, curved right and left; large and open bow to left; single short ribbon to right. “\* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS-CANADA.” Letters poor, no cross line on letters “A.” Rev.—Same as No. 45, with letters a little more open. Edge plain.

(To be continued.)

### SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

NEW SERIES. NO. 4.

“Confederate Coinage.”

The following anecdote, related to our gunboat “marines” during the late civil war in this country, by a “straggler,” who was picked up on the coast of South Carolina, may have been a matter of fact, but looks decidedly *fishy*. As the story has never appeared in print, we give it without endorsement:

“Ensign B., of the Ironsides, was a great lover of curiosities and, withal, quite a collector of coins, which he exhibited with great pride. Upon being assigned to duty upon the ironclad Ironsides, then ordered to Charleston, the ensign exhibited great joy, remarking to his ranking officer that he had heard the Confederate government had issued coins bearing the bust of Jeff. Davis, and the greatest wish of his existence, after performing his duty to his country, was to obtain a Confederate coin to enrich his collection. The commander smiled at the coin collector's enthusiasm, and promised to give the ensign an opportunity to carry out his wishes. Not long after the arrival of the Ironsides in the vicinity of Fort Sumter, a boat containing a Confederate soldier was picked up, who proved to be a deserter from Charleston. Here was the ensign's opportunity to ascertain the truth of the report that the Confederate authorities were making their own coins. Permission was granted by the commander for an interview between the ensign and the deserter, at which meeting the following dialogue occurred:

*Ensign.* “Has the Davis government issued any coins that you know of?”

*Deserter.* “You can bet they hev; they made the dies and struck fo' thousand in Rome, Georgia; but the coins were all sent to England 'cept one, which I found on a dead Confederate captain, at Bull Run, and gave to Jeff. Davis, in Charleston.”

*Ensign.* “How do you know the coin was issued by the Confederacy?”

*Deserter.* “I showed it to a Yankee prisoner, who said it was made in Rome while he was thar, an had the head of a Confederate officer on it, and his name was Nero.”



*Ensign.* (*Smiling.*) "What did Davis say when you gave him the coin?"

*Deserter.* "He said 'twas all right—Nero was on his staff at Rome, and he'd make Rome howl for issuing coins 'fo' consulting him. I asked him if it was a genuine Confederate piece, and he turned it over and showed me S. C. on the other side, and says, "What's that? Rome ain't in South Carolina," and I said, "P'raps, it was made in Georgia and struck in South Carolina," and, with that he smiled, pocketed the coin and left."

*Ensign.* (*Aggravated at the turn affairs had taken.*) "You are a fool, and Davis got the best of you. Instead of a Confederate coin, you lost an ancient coin, worth ten dollars."

After this interview, the ensign doubted the fact that a Confederate coin was issued, and often since the war has he related the little joke Jeff. Davis and the Union soldier perpetrated on the Confederate deserter.

LIST OF TYPES MOST COMMONLY FOUND ON GREEK  
AUTONOMOUS COINS.

COMPILED BY E. M., M. D.

(*Continued.*)

HELLAS.

*Acarmania.*—Apollo seated, extending an arm with a bow.

*Ætolia.*—A wild boar.

*Lamia in Thessalia.*—A vase surmounted with a leaf of ivy.

*Larissa in Thessalia.*—A horse stepping.

*Phocis.*—A bull's head, front view.

*Opuntia in Locris.*—Ajax, armed with a sword and shield.

*Bœotia.*—A buckler.

*Thespiæ in Bœotia.*—A lyre, with a laurel garland.

*Eretria in Eubœa.*—A bull lying down.

*Carystus in Eubœa.*—A cock.

*Histiæa in Eubœa.*—A female seated on the prow of a vessel.

*Chalcis in Eubœa.*—Head of Apollo and his lyre.

*Athenæ in Attica.*—An owl and olive branch.

*Eleusis in Attica.*—A sow.

*Megara.*—The prow of a vessel. A tripod.

*Corinthus.*—A pegasus.

*Sicyon.*—A chimera. A dove, with an olive wreath.

*Achaia.*—Monogram and a lyre, with a wreath.

*Elis.*—The thunderbolt.

*Arcadia.*—Pan sitting on a rock.

*Stymphalus in Arcadia.*—Hercules using his club.

*Pheneus in Arcadia.*—Hermes carrying the infant Arcas.

*Pylos in Messenia.*—A trident.

*Træzene in Argolis.*—A trident.

*Epidaurus in Argolis.*—A bow and quiver and a club.

*Messenia.*—A tripod.

*Lacedæmon in Laconia.*—A club and inscription in a garland.  
*Argos.*—Fore part of a wolf. Bird on a club.

## ÆGEAN ISLANDS.

- Thasus.*—Hercules.  
*Tenedos.*—A double headed ax.  
*Mitylene in Lesbos.*—A lyre.  
*Methymnæ in Lesbos.*—A boar.  
*Chios.*—A griffin. Later, an amphora or wine cup.  
*Samos.*—A lion's head.  
*Cos.*—A crab and club.  
*Tenos.*—Two dolphins and a trident.  
*Paros.*—A goat and a star.  
*Naxos.*—Silenus, with diota and thyrsus.  
*Melos.*—An apple.  
*Syros.*—A goat and an ear of corn.  
*Andros.*—A panther.  
*Ceos.*—Fore part of a dog.  
*Carthæa in Ceos.*—Fore part of a dog, surrounded with rays, and  
 a bee.  
*Coressus in Ceos.*—A star or a bee.  
*Egina.*—A turtle.  
*Rhodus.*—A full-faced sun. A rose.

## GAUL.

*Massilia.*—A lion standing in repose.

(To be continued.)

## THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

The Sardonyx is a stone of the same species as the Onyx, and differs from it only in this, that its layers, instead of being black and white, are pink (or red) and white. It is found in the same localities and is used for precisely identical purposes. The name is formed from the two words, *sardius*, applied by the ancients to the Carnelian, on account of its similarity of hue to the flesh of a fish of the same name, or because found in Sardinia, and *onyx*, finger-nail—the whole signifying, we suppose, a red and white finger-nail, and so called by way of distinction from black and white streaked specimens of calcedony, which were honored with the generic name of Onyx!

The Heliotrope is a species of calcedony, and is of a dark green color, sprinkled with deep red spots, whence it is sometimes named blood stone. The name, Heliotrope, comes from two Greek words, *helios* and *trope*—*sun* and *turning*—it having, according to some, been anciently employed for observing the sun.

It occurs in obtuse masses, with translucent edges, and is of a resinous lustre. It is found in Siberia, in the Faroe Islands, in Scotland, in several countries of Asia and Africa and in some portion of the United States.

It is chiefly employed for sword and dagger hilts, for snuff boxes, and the ordinary articles of jewelry. It is much admired. Its price is measured by the number of red spots, a good and large specimen often bringing twenty dollars.

Its red spots, according to mediæval superstition, were owing to the blood of Christ being diffused through it.

The Chrysolite. The authorities are unusually at odds respecting this stone, so that it is very difficult to make out an unimpeachable description of it. The name is significant enough, "golden or gold stone." It would seem there are several varieties of this gem, the two principal of which are called the Chrysolite, par excellence, and olivine species—the former embracing all the fine, green colored and crystalized varieties—the latter are less pellucid and inferior colored species. The Chrysolite comes principally through Constantinople, from region unknown, though occasionally also from Brazil.

The olivine specimens are found in several countries in Germany, in many parts of Scotland, in Russia, Siberia, South America, and in a few of the States of our Union. It occurs chiefly in basalt, but also in some lavas, and in several species of rock. It is rarely, though occasionally crystalized. Fine large specimens are not unfrequently found, and this stone, though of indifferent color, from its taking a high polish, is sometimes sold for considerable sums. Two were vended in Paris at six hundred francs each.

The largest specimen known weighs sixteen pounds. It was found in Minas Novas, and is in possession of the Brazillian Crown.

Both these species of the Chrysolite are used for ornament, though not to any great extent.

It will be remembered that this is one of the stones in John's description of the New Jerusalem.

(To be continued.)

## DIFFERENT ISSUES OF UNITED STATES CENTS.

BY G. A. D.

Since the establishment of the United States Mint, at Philadelphia, in 1792, there have been eight issues of the United States cents.

On the obverse of the first issue, in 1793, is the profile of a head with "Liberty" above and the date beneath. On the reverse is a circle made by a chain of thirteen links, representing the thirteen original States, with "One Cent" within, and "United States of America" without the circle.

The second issue of the same year consisted of a profile. Also, a Liberty cap suspended on a pole, which extended obliquely across the face of the coin. "Liberty" above and the date below the head. On the reverse is a wreath and is otherwise like the first issue. This

kind of reverse was struck with but slight alterations until the sixth issue. Cents of the first and second issues weigh 208 grains.

The third issue was struck in 1796, when the weight of the cent was reduced to 168 grains, and consisted of a different kind of head, termed fillet, without the Liberty cap on the obverse.

By the fourth issue, in 1808, the head was changed, being a different kind, and facing to the right, with thirteen stars around and the date beneath it. On the obverse of the cents of the fifth issue, in 1816, was a different head from any of former date, but facing the same way as those of the fourth issue and otherwise the same.

Cents of the sixth issue, in 1856, are composed of 88 per cent. copper and 12 per cent. nickel. On the obverse is an eagle with "United States of America" above and the date beneath. On the reverse is a wreath with "One Cent" within the enclosure. This reverse, with but a slight alteration, is still struck at the mint.

By the seventh issue, in 1859, an Indian's head took the place of the eagle. By the eighth issue, in 1864, the cent was made thinner. Otherwise it was like the seventh issue.

Two cent pieces, in bronze, were struck, in 1864, three cent nickel pieces in 1865 and five cent nickel pieces in 1866, all of which are coined at the present time.

#### AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*  
(Continued.)

The Franklin Institute, then young and earnest, as it still is, in the advancement of knowledge, secured the services of Mr. Peale for a series of lectures on a subject adapted to his special talents. He here delivered two courses, in the winters of 1831-2 and 1832-3, on Mechanics, or rather Machines. These were fully illustrated, either by the machines themselves or diagrams, were novel in their character, and justly added to Mr. Peale's reputation. He was long an active member of the Institute, giving efficient labor on its most important committees and at the annual exhibitions, and occasionally contributing articles on mechanical subjects to its Journal.

In 1833, Mr Peale entered upon that connection with the Mint of the United States which gave a full opportunity for the display of his special abilities, and through which his reputation was firmly established. Dr. Samuel Moore, then Director, conceived the project of a mission to Europe, for the purpose of examining and reporting on such chemical, mechanical and metallurgic methods and improvements as might be deemed worthy of introduction into our Mint. He procured the needful authority and appropriations, and, having the fullest confidence in Mr. Peale, selected him as the agent for this purpose. He accepted the trust, and sailed for Europe in May of the same year, being officially designated as Assistant Assayer. Mr. Peale remained abroad two years.

The subjects of special interest to the Director had been the sul-

phuric acid process of refining (or parting), and the humid assay of silver, on which full investigations were required, but Mr. Peale was not restricted in his inquiries, nor in truth was he one likely to overlook any particulars bearing directly or remotely upon the broad objects of his mission. His intelligent and patient labor mastered every detail. By partial reports during his absence, but more especially by a full and final report after his return, accompanied by plans and drawings, our Mint was placed in full possession of all that was then worthy to be known of the establishments, public and private, whose organization and methods affiliated them with our own.

The direct results of the mission were the introduction of the humid assay, some improvements in the details of the refining process, and the labor saving method of duplicating working dies for coinage.

The indirect results were, perhaps, equally important. For the thoughts and labors of a man of genius in mechanics (as Mr. Peale was) could not be concentrated on the details of Mint process without planning many valuable improvements.

*(To be continued.)*

## THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

*(Continued.)*

Package No. 6 contained counterfeit State bank notes and legal tenders sent as specimens by J. E. D. Cousins, Chief of Police of St. Louis, Mo.

Package No. 7 contained Confederate bonds held subject to the order of the Secretary of War. Total amount, \$12,050.

Package No. 8 contained the sad relics left by a defaulting Treasury clerk in his desk. The man's name was E. French, and he was assistant disbursing clerk in the Treasury Extension. After he had absconded, his keys, papers and money were safely lodged in the vault. The money consisted of \$50 in gold, \$2 10 in silver, and one cent nickel. This package was dated September 24, 1859.

Package No. 9 was an immense bundle of valuables, no less than the substantial inheritance of the Smithsonian Institution. These riches consisted of bonds of the State of Arkansas, valued at \$538,000. Several days were occupied in the careful examination of this national property.

Package No. 10 was a modest looking package, and contained \$2000, and was left for safe keeping by an old Secretary of War.

Package No. 11 contained samples of United States demand notes deposited by the Treasurer of the United States.

Package No. 12 contained 1 counterfeit plate, back of a ten dollar note, deposited by Solicitor of the Treasury, in July, 1864.

Package No. 13 was an envelope, and contained a check drawn by A. A. Cronchite, A. Q. M. of United States Army, on Assistant Treasurer United States, St. Louis. Amount, \$375. Date, December 2, 1863. Deposited by Fourth Auditor.

Package No. 14 contained \$350, being notes that were stolen from Lieutenant James Braunaugh in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and forwarded to the Treasury for payment. Deposited by Treasurer of the United States, October 29, 1866.

Package No. 15 contained \$14,500 in Virginia States bond, deposited by Secretary of the Treasury as captured property from a person formerly acting as an officer of the late so-called Confederacy. Dated February 16, 1867.

Package No. 16 contained \$50,000 registered bonds deposited as collateral security by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Package No. 17 contained 89 counterfeit ten dollar notes, manufactured in Sheffield, England, and left on special deposit by W. A. Shannon, August 22, 1863, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Package No. 18 contained \$61,000 Texas indemnity stock, 5 per cent., deposited by Secretary of the Treasury, through W. H. Andrews, for safe keeping, subject to his order.

Package No. 19, an envelope, which contained bonds issued on account of Pacific Railroad by State of Missouri. Deposited by Secretary of the Treasury, January 4, 1868.

Package No. 20 contained bonds issued on account of Blue Ridge Railroad, by State of South Carolina. Deposited by Secretary of the Treasury, January 6, 1868.

Package No. 21 contained an envelope, deposited by Second Auditor, May 6, 1868, and consisted of a Monroe County (New York) certificate of \$300. The above bond to be used as a voucher in the settlement of Captain J. D. O'Connell's accounts.

Package No. 22 contained counterfeit Treasury and bank notes passed by and found in the possession of John B. Henderson, and cancelled by William B. Randolph, September 29, 1838. Deposited by the Treasurer, May 26, 1868.

Package No. 23, one envelope, in which were found counterfeit legal tenders, fractional currency and bank notes. Deposited by H. Johnson. The original deposit consisted of \$268 in gold and silver, which was forwarded to the Mint in Philadelphia to ascertain its value. Amount of counterfeit currency, \$614 01.

Package No. 24, deposited August 6, 1870, by the Secretary of the Treasury, in trust for the Alaska Commercial Company, containing five-twenty bonds. Whole amount, \$55,000.

*(To be continued.)*

#### REDEMPTION OF COPPER COINS.

A large quantity of the old U. S. cents have been received at the Mint, in this city, from various parts of the country. Among twenty thousand cents but one uncirculated coin was found, and that an 1837. Nothing rare or fine in such a quantity is a very convincing argument that numismatology is spreading, and the people of this country are well informed in regard to the value of rare coins. We shall report from time to time the "finds," as the vast accumulation is examined.

## COIN SALES.

A small coin and curiosity sale, the property of A. C. Kline, Philadelphia, was held at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s sales rooms, New York, on April 8.

A three days coin sale came off at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s auction house, April 3, 4 and 5, comprising a very interesting lot of ancient and English coins, and a nearly complete series of Scotch pieces. The sale was well attended upon the first day, but the second and third days' attendance was very limited, and most of the gold and silver pieces sold very low—in a number of instances below par value. There is one thing to admire and commend in the catalogue of this sale, *i. e.*, the terms used to describe the coins. The author of the catalogue (unknown) confined his condition of coins to a very few terms, such as "uncirculated," "very fine," "fine," "good," "poor" and "fair." How much better, plainer and, in every way, preferable are these conditions to the ambiguous terms and confusing explanations used by some coin dealers, who prefer to say *something new*, when describing coins, and mystify the bidder by a multiplicity of descriptions, among which it would be difficult to find twins.

It has been quite a mystery to know whose collection was offered at auction on the 3d ult., and an equally mystifying puzzle to know who catalogued the unknown cabinet. Judging by the Canada pieces in the catalogue, we should look to the New Dominion for a paternal owner for the unknown numismatic offspring. With few exceptions, the collection was notably over-described, and to this fact is due the falling off in interest and attendance after the first night's sale.

## OFF FOR EUROPE.

The editor of this journal will leave, for a coin hunting tour in Europe, in a few days after the issue of this number of the magazine. Ample arrangements have been made for the prompt filling of orders during his absence. Upon his return, a circular will be issued, containing a list of coins, autographs and whatever of interest he can gather in the Old World. Any of our patrons wishing to obtain certain coins (ancient or modern), books or relics, can address, E. Mason, Jr., care of Lincoln & Son, No. 462 New Oxford street, London, England. A commission of ten per cent. will be charged on all purchases.

## PRINTED PRICED LISTS OF COIN SALES.

By reference to the cover, it will be noticed that the New England Numismatic Society have in view the publication of a supplementary sheet, containing the numbers and prices of lots in coin sale catalogues, to be bound in with the catalogues. This is certainly an improvement over the old plan of pricing catalogues, and has long been in vogue in Europe. We predict a large demand for the price lists. In fact, we have already received orders for the price list of the Packer sale of 27th February.

## THE CAUFFMAN COIN SALE.

A fine cabinet of coins, mostly American, will be offered at auction by Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, the 3d inst.—sale to continue two days. Mr. Cauffman, the owner, was one of our early customers, and, as an instance of the advance in the value of coins, we would state that, in the year 1860, he purchased of us an 1839 proof U. S. silver dollar for seventeen dollars, now worth forty dollars. We opine that this collection will net the owner a profit of fifty per cent. on the first cost, as nearly the whole collection was formed when coins were at least fifty per cent. lower than at present. Bidders who receive catalogues too late to bid by mail will please telegraph us to New York, care of auctioneers.

## THE REDEMPTION OF TOKENS.

The Secretary of the U. S. Treasury has amended the regulations for the redemption of the token coins, so that each denomination and kind must be assorted by the sender before shipment to the Treasury. There are three kinds of one cent pieces, viz.: copper cents, issued prior to 1857; nickel copper cents, issued from 1857 to 1864; and bronze cents, issued from 1867 to 1871. These coins, as well as the bronze two cent pieces and the copper-nickel three and five cent pieces, must be put up separately, and forwarded in packages in the aggregate of twenty dollars or in multiples of twenty dollars.

## NUMISMATICS ABROAD.

It is our purpose to commence in the next issue a series of letters concerning the state of the coin trade in England, and to add such matters of interest associated with coin and stamp collecting as we may be able to pick up by the wayside while making a rapid tour among the coin dealers of England and its dependencies. Should the June number be delayed beyond the 5th proximo, we shall probably issue a double number for July, and hope our readers and subscribers will take note and not be disappointed if the June number should not reach them promptly.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y., March 16, 1871.

MASON & Co.: GENTLEMEN—I wish to direct your attention to a new plan of pricing catalogues of coin or other sales. I received, a few weeks ago, a catalogue from Germany, which is a pattern for any catalogue I have seen yet. The price arrangement is a sheet by itself, and was printed after the auction sale had taken place. By that means, any catalogue can be priced, after the sale, without using the means of sending forth and back the catalogue, and saving a great deal of trouble and expense. The expense would be small—you could furnish price lists of catalogues of former sales as well as of present or future sales, for from ten to fifty cents, according to the number of lots, and make a good thing of it. JOSEPH HAUSLER.



[The plan of pricing catalogues by a supplementary sheet has been long in vogue not only in Germany, but in other countries. The Boston Numismatic Society has decided to issue these priced sheets for all future sale catalogues. Ed.]

TRAVERSE CITY, MICH., March 24, 1871.

MASON & Co.: GENTS—Will you please answer the following questions through your magazine: Is there any work describing every coin ever issued so far as known? If so, what is it and price? If not (and I do not think there is), I should think some one who understands his business might make a fine thing of it. It would be expensive, of course, but would certainly find an extended sale.

Very truly,

T. T. BATES.

[There is no work published containing a description and history of every coin issued. Among the coin manuals devoted to American coins, Dickeson's stands alone, although Prime has issued a very interesting coin manual, embracing foreign as well as American coins. Experience has proved that the publication of numismatic works in America is a profitless and thankless undertaking. Ed.]

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. T., NEW YORK.—If your friend had a catalogue of the coin sale of May 3 and 4, at the time you name, he received it one week earlier than it was received by us. The catalogues we received, to the number of seventy-five, were distributed promptly as far as that small number would go among our numerous bidders and patrons.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.—In another portion of this number of the magazine, the allusion is made to the expected departure of the editor to Europe. He will leave New York, April 29, by "City of London," of the Inman line of steamers, to be absent six weeks. Arrangements have been perfected to fill all orders promptly, during the editor's absence, and his copartner will attend all coin sales and execute orders from bidders.

A. K. Y., ST. LOUIS.—Nero was born A. D. 37, adopted by Claudius and created Cæsar A. D. 50. He committed suicide upon receiving intelligence that his soldiers had proclaimed Galba emperor, A. D. 68. Silver denarii of Nero are valued at \$1 to \$2, according to condition and designs. First brass, worth from 50 cents to \$2 50. Second brass, from 25 cents to \$1. Third brass, from 25 cents to 50 cents.

P. P. JR., CHARLESTON.—Send us a quantity of the bonds and stamps you allude to. We will pay \$2 each for one thousand dollar bills, 50 cents for five hundred dollar bills, 10 cents for one hundred dollar bills and for smaller denominations in proportion.

S. H. W. L., RICHMOND.—We have a five cent postage stamp, unused, with head of Davis, black, on white paper, genuine issue from original dies, undoubtedly unique, same as small blue issue made in England for the confederacy.

S. M., NEW HAVEN.—In JUNE, we shall have a fine assortment of proof English tokens. A choice line of Greek and Roman silver and copper coins on hand now; also, Colonial coins and some choice cents.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOSTON.—Magazine mailed from February. We regret we did not receive notice to continue the subscription earlier in the year.

W. H. J., CLEVELAND.—Sales of coins for the present season close with Cauffman sale, May 3 and 4. There may be a few small sales during the present month and June, but the harvest is over and coin-sales of importance will not occur before September.

L. K. R., NEW ORLEANS.—It is reported that coins have been struck in France since the defeat and overthrow of Louis Napoleon. Mr. Mason, while absent in Europe, will investigate the matter, and report in the June number.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—Two new values have been recently issued for these provinces, viz :

5 centimes, green.

25 centimes, dark brown.

The type is the same as that of the earlier issued values, but the lettering is thicker. Our Carlsruhe correspondent states that a new set of stamps for united Germany will be issued January, 1872, and no doubt the provisional Alsace will remain in use until that time. In the occupied departments, or at least in the department of the Somme, by special order "from a very high quarter," the Prussians impose a surcharge of 20 centimes on all letters posted within their jurisdiction. This charge is indicated on the envelope by a hand-stamped figure 2, and the inscription TAXE ALLEMANDE, in black. We have seen several letters from Amiens and Abbeville bearing this imprint.

FRANCE.—The transition from occupied to unoccupied France is a natural one. The provisional Bordeaux series continues in use, and numerous varieties are in existence, resulting from the rough printing. The 20 centimes is found in deep blue, ultramarine, and dull blue; the 10 c. in all shades, from red-brown to a light brownish yellow; the 80 c. is known in deep carmine and dull rose. The 40 c. is rarely used, and but few copies have come under our notice. In Paris, the use of the republic stamp has almost ceased for the moment: nearly all the letters which arrive in the departments are franked with the old imperial labels, of which the stock must now be nearly exhausted. Probably the old head of Liberty will long remain current, as the government is hardly in a position to go to the unnecessary expense of making fresh dies, and the republic itself appears likely to last.

CANADA.—Our Brussels contemporary has apparently been deceived

by the adroit swindler who succeeded in misleading the editor of *The Philatelist*. He chronicles, as a surprising novelty, a small sized 3 cents *dark brown*. We have had one in our possession for some months, which was originally red, and owed its transformation to chemical agency. Would M. Moens like to see it?

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—The four pence mauve has been "translated" into a provisional, and has its value reduced by one-fourth. Below the effigy, in a straight line, is the inscription 3-PENCE, printed at first in red, but now in black. This is a new value, and no doubt will be represented by a new type when the stock of the four pence is exhausted.

**FINLAND.**—*Helsingfors.*—The design of the "10 penni" supercedes the blue and stone stamp which has been in use for the last three years, and is printed in two colors, in a very peculiar manner; the upper half, from the right upper to left lower corner, is red, and the lower half green, and thus it results that the Swedish inscriptions, HELSINGFORS STADSPOST, have their color, and the Finnish inscriptions, KAUPUNGIN POSTI HELSINGISSA, have theirs. The stamp is printed on white paper, and provided with serpentine perforations.

**BAVARIA.**—The Brussels journal notes the emission of several varieties of field-post envelopes.

**SWITZERLAND.**—The same paper gives a representation of a stamp which has been issued by the Swiss authorities for the use of the soldiers of Bourbaki's army interned in Switzerland, and frees their letters through the post. This stamp is printed in black on rose and on red paper.

**MOZAMBIQUE.**—M. Moens, in his catalogue, chronicles an emission of six values for this Portuguese colony, but gives no description.

**WURTEMBERG.**—A correspondent informs us of the emission of two post-cards for this state, one with an embossed 3 kr., and the other with an embossed 1 kr. stamp, in their usual colors.

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**—Another correspondent sends us an extract from a letter received from a friend at the Cape, explaining the cause of the surcharge of the six pence lilac. It appears this value was much used as a revenue stamp and but little for postal purposes. When the government forbade its being affixed to documents, its employment almost ceased, and to utilise the stock remaining on hand, the value was changed from six pence to four pence.

**SPAIN.**—The 25 milesimas has just been issued in a new color—bright mauve.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

#### PHILATELIC FOSSILS.

Fossils always retard the progress of science and cling with indefatigable tenacity to everything they touch, injuring and repressing what, without their influence, would advance and confer blessings upon mankind. The good ship Philately was launched at the port of America, several years since, under the most favorable auspices, and favoring winds were fast wafting her to the haven of Success, when

suddenly her hull became barnacled over with *brown* fossils, checking her headway and detracting from her beauty, greatly to the consternation of the passengers and crew. We call upon the fraternity of philatelists, in the city of New York, to use their exertions to knock the *brown* barnacles from our good ship and free the craft from fossils, that there may be plain sailing hereafter.

UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Continued.)

- B. A. Fahnestock's Vermifuge, Pittsburgh, oblong, 1 cent, red.  
 S. W. Fowle & Son, Boston, rect., 4 cents, black.  
 G. Farr & Co., Matches, Boston, rect., 1 cent, black.  
 F. E. C. Matches, 1 cent, carmine.  
 Wm. Gates, Matches, Frankfort, rect., 1 cent, black; oblong, 3 cents, black; oblong, 6 cents, black.  
 Greenleaf & Co., Matches, Milwaukee, rect., 1 cent, green; oblong, 3 cents, red; oblong, 5 cents, yellow.  
 T. Gorman & Bro., Matches, Westville, Conn., rect., 1 cent, green; 1 cent, black.  
 C. Goodall & Son, Playing Cards, London, Eng., rect., 5 cents, black.  
 Hall's Hair Renewer, Nashua, N. H., oblong, 4 cents, black.  
 Hall & Buckel, New York, rect., 1 cent, green; 3 cents, black.  
 Samuel Hart & Co., Philadelphia and New York, oblong, 5 cents, black.  
 Helmbold's Genuine Preparations, rect., 2 cents, blue; 3 cents, green; 4 cents and 6 cents, black.  
 John F. Henry, U. S. Medicine, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 2 cents, mauve; 2 cents, blue.  
 John F. Henry, U. S. Medicine, New York, rect., 4 cents, mauve; 4 cents, vermilion.  
 Herrick's Pills and Plasters, rect., 1 cent, vermilion.  
 Holloway's Pills and Ointment, New York, oblong, 1 cent, blue.  
 Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburg, oblong, 4 cents, black; 6 cents, black.  
 Hutchings & Hillyer, New York, Female Pills, oblong, 4 cents, green.  
 T. J. Husband, Philadelphia, oblong, 2 cents, mauve; 2 cents, vermilion.  
 E. T. Hazleton, Warren, Pa., oblong, 4 cents, black.  
 B. & H. D. Howard, Telegraph Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, blue; 1 cent, vermilion.  
 Henning & Bouhack, Matches, Hudson City, N. J., rect., 1 cent, blue.  
 C. E. Hull & Co., New York, rect., 1 cent, black.  
 Iron City Percussion Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.

(To be continued.)

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. 5.

JUNE, 1871.

No. 6.

### CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY AND ITS IMITATIONS.

(Concluded.)

In the year 1779, a British transport was captured, near Sandy Hook, with many millions of counterfeit Continental bills aboard, and machinery for counterfeiting those that might be hereafter emitted by Congress. Her consort escaped, on board of which there were one hundred millions of dollars in these bills that had been manufactured in Scotland.

A million of dollars of the forged issue of 1770 is proved to have been taken from the British troops, at Sandy Hook, by Captain Allen McLane. The proof of this forgery is the bills found in the hands of the captured enemy, as shown by an extract from the journal of Major McLane, seven years a partisan officer in our War of Independence. Major McLane, of the Continental Army, at the commencement of the war, in the year 1777, was made a full captain. He remained on or near the line till January, 1780. Before the winter set in, he drove the enemy at Fort Mifflin, Monmouth county, New Jersey, attacked the garrison at Sandy Hook, took it by surprise and brought off all the prisoners, with a large quantity of Continental bills to the amount of a million of dollars, so well executed that Mr. Smith, the head of the Loan office, at Philadelphia, could not distinguish between the counterfeit and genuine bills.

[From an old newspaper, Philadelphia, November 26, 1777.]

#### No. 7.] BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.

A large number of Counterfeit bills of the following emission of Continental money has lately been sent out of New York. Several millions have been detected and some persons are now under guard for uttering them. They are very easily known. Being struck on a copper plate, they look and feel smooth. The complexion of these bills differ very much from the true bills and they are very badly executed. The counterfeits are of the following emission, viz.:

\$40 bills of February 26, 1777, \$8 and \$6 bills of May, 1777. In the \$40 counterfeit, the eye is not so long by the sixteenth of an inch as the true bill and is not so plain; the smaller part of the eyelid is broken off short; in the true bill it runs almost up into the clouds; the sight part of the eye in the counterfeit is too strong and bold.

\$5 counterfeit, the first five letters in the word "Spanish" are larger than the ending letters; in the true bill they are much alike.

§30 counterfeit, the name of one of the printers on the back is Sellors ; in the true bill it is Sellers.

§8 counterfeit, on the face of the bill the "T" in the word Thiers is not so long as in the true bill, and the letters in general are much smaller ; the lower part of the harp in the genuine bill is much nearer to the inner circle than in the counterfeit.

§6 counterfeit, in the word "value" the "V" is too high up in the line, but is in a line with the other letters.

One of the §30 bills is of the same emission ; the other is a recent impression.

## LIST OF TYPES MOST COMMONLY FOUND ON GREEK AUTONOMOUS COINS.

COMPILED BY E. M., M. D.

(Concluded.)

ASIA MINOR.

- Miletus in Ionia*.—A lion and star.  
*Samos in Ionia*.—A bull ; a peacock.  
*Ephesus in Ionia*.—A bee.  
*Colophon in Ionia*.—A dog.  
*Teos in Ionia*.—A griffin, with rounded wings.  
*Erythræ in Ionia*.—A bow and quiver and a club.  
*Chios in Ionia*.—A griffin.  
*Clazomene in Ionia*.—A lion's head and a fish.  
*Phocæa in Ionia*.—A seal. The dioscurii.  
*Temnos in Lydia*.—Fortune, with her attributes.  
*Smyrna in Lydia*.—A female head, with turreted crown.  
*Sardis in Lydia*.—A lion and bull.  
*Cyme in Æolia*.—A diota, with one handle.  
*Cumea in Æolia*.—A bridled horse, stepping.  
*Pergamus in Mysia*.—An eagle on a thunderbolt.  
*Assus in Mysia*.—A griffin beneath a bunch of grapes.  
*Ilium in Mysia*.—Minerva, with distaff and spear.  
*Abydos in Mysia*.—A full face or mask.  
*Lampsacus in Mysia*.—A winged sea horse.  
*Parium in Mysia*.—A gorgon. A bull and horse, walking.  
*Cyzicus in Mysia*.—Winged boar. Lion's head, full face.  
*Sigeum in Mysia*.—An owl, full or side face.  
*Chalcedon in Bithynia*.—A bull. A lyre between two olive trees.  
*Sinope in Paphlagonia*.—An eagle holding a fish in his claws.  
*Amisus in Pontus*.—The parazonium.  
*Tralles in Caria*.—A serpent issuing from the chest of Bacchus.  
*Mylasa in Caria*.—A double headed ax, with a laurel wreath.  
*Cnidus in Caria*.—A lion's head in profile.  
*Myra in Lycia*.—A tripod.  
*Olbia in Pamphylia*.—An eagle with a fish.  
*Side in Pamphylia*.—Head of Pallas. A pomegranate.  
*Seleucia in Cilicia*.—Thunderbolt, with flowers projecting from both sides.

*Celenderis in Cilicia*.—A goat.

*Selge in Pisidia*.—A slinger, or wrestlers.

SYRIA.

*Antiochia*.—A ram running, the head turned back towards a crescent and stars.

*Aradus (island)*.—A female head with turreted crown.

*Orthosa in Phœnicia*.—A panther.

*Sidon in Phœnicia*.—Hercules bending his bow.

*Tyrus in Phœnicia*.—Head of Hercules or Baal.

TAURIC CHERSONESUS.

*Panticapeum*.—Head of Pan.

*Phanagoria*.—A bow and arrow.

THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

(Concluded.)

One box deposited in June, 1868, by the Secretary of the Treasury, contained the original Field medal, in case, struck at the United States Mint under resolution of Congress. The paper which accompanied the medal is copied *verbatim*:

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, PHILADELPHIA, June 15, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to forward to your address to-day, per Adams Express Company, the gold medal struck at the Mint per your instruction for Cyrus W. Field, Esq., under the resolution of Congress authorizing the same. The medal is enclosed in a neat pearl case with gold mountings, all of which were prepared from dies made from our new engraving machine. The mountings on the case are intended to harmonize with the object of the medal inside, and continue the expression of the same ideas. The fraternity of man, "ocean divided" is the gem of the sea (pearl). The trident of Neptune in the corners is the form used for the points of electricity, and expresses the real dominion or mastery of man; while the gold cable running around the gobular part of the pearl continues the metaphor. The centre, with the shield and crest of Cyrus W. Field, with the arms of the United States and England on either side, and with European arms right and left of them, expresses the binding of the nations by the cable; the small shield of America at the bottom of cable, and the private arms of Cyrus W. Field in the centre or post of honor, is asserting the claims of the first place in the enterprise for the United States.

I enclose bill for the medal and case, amount of which please remit.

Gold coin,	\$598 60
Currency,	42 30

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. LINDERMAN, Director.

Hon. HUGH McCULLOCH, Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.

It will be remembered that Congress appropriated five thousand dollars for the construction of this medal, but it appears that less than one thousand, exclusive of the case, actually entered into its composition. It is true it is large and clumsy enough for a medal, but why should Congress decide that something in the ugliest and

most useless shape possible should be given to one of the most distinguished of living Americans? Only those gifted with talent can understand the wretched little quirks and devices on its two flat sides; and to carry out the heathen design, more trouble and expense has been laid out on the covering or case than the medal itself. It would be well for American art if this medal and its successor could be dropped into a bottomless sea, beyond all chance of their future resurrection. Henry Ward Beecher says when he was a boy he stole a cannon ball and carried it home in his hat, and oh! mischief, the trouble that came afterwards to find out what to do with the theft. If it had been true that Andy Johnson had stolen the Field medal, Beecher and his cannon ball, Andy Johnson and the Field medal would have gone arm-in-arm down the immortal path of time.

By the side of the Field medal box were found two boxes of jewels, deposited by H. A. Risley to the account of the Treasury, one under date of December 15, 1868, and the other June 16, 1869. These boxes were examined and sealed by Mr. Hoar, by authority of the Secretary of the Treasury. [See schedule of abandoned property.] The contents of these boxes were not examined; as these are held subject to an order of the Secretary of War.

Package No. 25 contained one envelope, deposited by the postmaster at Winchester, S. R. Atwell, subject to an order of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Amount, \$1000.

Package No. 26 is an envelope, deposited by P. Eichele & Co., St. Louis, September 28, 1870, held subject to the order of Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Deposited as collateral security, upon which internal revenue stamps were furnished. Amount, \$20,000.

Package No. 27 contained different bonds of the State of Louisiana and city of New Orleans. Amount, \$1,438,500. A full examination was made of this, June 21, 1866, by a committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury for that purpose. Schedule on file in abandoned property division, Secretary's office, and in cash vault, Treasury's office.

Package No. 28 is a number of Bank of England notes that were purchased by Secretary Chase, to be used as a sample in the National Currency Bureau of the department, and to be held until an order is received from the Secretary authorizing the sale of them. Dated July 13, 1865.

With the Bank of England notes the list ends. Messrs. Johnes & Underwood were employed several days in the long and careful examination of this vault. Some of the dates were found to extend back as far as 1821. Some of the papers were found to be inclined to crumble at the slightest touch, and had to be handled with the greatest caution.

To the kindness of United States Treasurer Spinner, and his assistant, L. R. Tuttle, are we indebted for a description of the vault and its contents, and in the name of the people, whose servant we have the honor to be, our grateful thanks are tendered.



HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF  
THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

CANADA.

49. C. Obv.—Bouquet heavy, to left. 1 rose, 5 rose leaves, one of which turns to centre, 4 broad blades, wheat to right; 2 thistles, 2 thistle leaves, one turning to centre, 1 shamrock, 5 blades wheat, one between thistles, to left; on top a head wheat; the whole bound by ribbon, which extends about a quarter inch to right and left. “\* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS-CANADA.” Rev.—Very close wreath, same as No. 45, large bow curved to left with leaves close to it; wreath somewhat orange shaped and leaves very large. “UN SOU” very much spread, and dot over “o;” word “MONTREAL” close to wreath. Edge plain.

50. C. Obv.—Same as No. 49. Rev.—Same, bow curved to right.

51. C. Obv.—Small bouquet. 1 rose, 4 rose leaves, 2 shamrocks, 2 broad blades and 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 broad blades and 1 head wheat, 3 leaves as No. 39, one in centre to left; on top, between heads of wheat a blade of same broken and bent down, tops of bouquet close to inscription, which is same as No. 49, small bow to right, ribbon to left. Rev.—Same as No. 49, but without dot on “o.” Edge plain.

52. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 4 rose leaves, one turned to left, 1 shamrock, 1 blade wheat to right, 2 thistles, 1 shamrock, 4 blades wheat, and 2 leaves as No. 39, one over centre to left; on top, 3 heads wheat, two inclined to left, the other broken and bent downwards to right. Bow short and open to right; 2 ribbons to left. Inscription same as No. 49. Rev.—Same as No. 49. Edge plain.

53. C. Obv.—Very full bouquet. 2 thistles, 1 small and 2 large thistle leaves to right—one of the large leaves turns over and forms centre of bouquet; 1 large rose, 5 rose leaves, one of which turns over centre thistle leaf, sprig of 3 shamrocks to left; on top 2 heads of wheat to right and left, and 3 blades wheat between. Bow to left, short ribbon hanging downwards, to right. “AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE BAS CANADA.” Rev.—Same as No. 49. Edge milled.

54. C. Obv.—Very small bouquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 1 head and 1 blade wheat to right; 2 thistles, 1 blade wheat, 2 leaves as No. 39 to left—one turns over centre on top; 2 heads wheat with blade between each, inclined to left; bow and ribbon to right; ribbon to left. “AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE : BAS-CANADA.” Rev.—Wreath of 18 leaves, very much spread, top leaves just touching; bow with long ribbon, which entwines round ends of wreath; sprigs on each side of bow; bottom of wreath nearly touches word “MONTREAL;” dot over “o” in Sou. Plain edge.

55. Brass. Obv.—Very open bouquet. 1 rose, 5 leaves, 1 shamrock, 1 head wheat to right; 2 thistles, 4 shamrocks, one between

thistles, 1 rose leaf which turns over centre; 1 head and 1 blade of wheat to left; on top, in centre, 2 blades wheat curved to right; large open bow to left, long ribbon to right. "*\* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS-CANADA.*" Rev.—Small wreath of 16 leaves with sprigs. Bow with sprigs on either side, and flowing ribbon entwined round ends of wreath. No dot over "o" in Sou. Edge plain. Scarce.

(*To be continued.*)

#### AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*  
(*Continued.*)

Happily for the public service, Dr. R. M. Patterson, the Director who succeeded Dr. Moore (in July, 1835), was Mr. Peale's warm friend and a great admirer of his talents. His mission did not cease, therefore, with his return from Europe, but he became associated permanently with the Mint, for a time as Assistant Assayer, then as Melter and Refiner (in 1836). His first great work was in the construction of the steam coining presses, substituted for the hand presses then in use. The first steam press was manufactured under his supervision, by Merrick, Agnew & Tyler, and turned out its first specimens in March, 1836. Presses subsequently manufactured for our own and other mints have been improved in minor points, but their principle of action remains the same.

Other improvements which he introduced were the so-called milling machine, for raising the edge of the planchet; the steam engines, small and large; the automatic or retroactive return of the draw-bench; and, in particular, the scales for weighing of silver. These last are models of simple mechanism and nice accuracy. So, in fact, was all of Mr. Peale's work. And we may add, that he brought to all the eye of an artist. It was not enough that a machine should be effective; it must also be graceful and attractive. "*Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit.*" But I cannot enter at large into details of his labors at the mint. I simply add my conviction that, without Franklin Peale, the most of that which attracts the admiration of the visitors to the coining department of the Mint would have been wanting.

The mark of inventive genius is here conspicuous, and I have often thought, as I passed through that part of the establishment, how appropriately might be there ascribed to his honor, the words: "*Si monumentum requiris circumspecte.*" But a more competent judge than myself, thoroughly qualified by long experience in mint affairs, has spoken to this point in words which I take the liberty to quote: "It has been my privilege (he says) to visit the mints of London and Paris, and to witness their inferiority in the mechanical arrangements to the Mint in Philadelphia. The superiority of our Mint is most manifest in just those points where his hand has touched, and when Americans visiting the mints of Europe feel a pride in remembering the superiority of their own, they ought to know that to the

genius and taste of Franklin Peale are they mainly indebted for it. At the mints of both Paris and London he was well known and inquired for with interest."

Mr. Peale's connection with the Mint ceased in December, 1854, and he retired for some time from all public employment. In 1864, he was elected President of the Hazleton Coal and Railroad Company, in the direction of which he had been for many years an active member. He continued in this office until 1867, when he resigned, and finally closed his long career of active business life.

I have thus hastily sketched the professional life of Mr. Peale, by which his public reputation was established; but any notice of his character would be far from complete which left out what we may call its æsthetic side, including those varied accomplishments and elegant tastes which made him one of the most interesting of men.

(To be continued.)

#### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

(Continued.)

**The Hyacinth.** Writers differ about the identity of this stone as about so many others. We suspect the cause of these differences is chiefly that they are speaking about varieties of the same stone. Without essaying the difficult and protracted task of reconciling their discrepancies, we shall take for our main authority the latest and, in our view, the ablest of these writers, James Nicols. He holds the Hyacinth to be identical with the "zircon."

This stone occurs in imbedded crystals, chiefly prismatic or pyramidal, and in rounded grains. It is in its several species not only red, but gray, yellow, green and colorless.

It is most abundant in the sienate of Southern Norway and in the miascite of the Ural Mountains. It abounds in numerous parts of Europe, as also of North America.

The colorless varieties are often sold for Diamonds. The specific name, Hyacinth, is more particularly appropriated to the most brilliantly colored ones, which are rarely of large size. The byacinthus of ancients is believed by scientific writers to have been a different stone.

**The Cat's-eye.** This stone takes its name from the peculiar play of light on its surface, whereby it variously appears greenish-white or gray, olive-green, red, brown or yellow. It contains parallel fibres, resembling those of amianthus or mountain flax. The finest come from Ceylon and Malabar, but it is also found in the Hartz Mountains, in Bavaria, and in several of the United States.

It is a species of the universal quartz, and is found, never larger than a hazel nut, in the fragments of boulders and gangs. It is valued according to the size, color and play of light. In the Impe-

rial Cabinet at Vienna, a Cat's-eye five inches long, and of a yellowish-brown color, is preserved.

Some of the ancients called this stone "oculis solis," or of the eye sun, and the Persians named it "mithrax," the sun. This stone is, at the present day a great favorite in China, and commands a high price there.

The beautiful and popular stone called the Opal is next in our order. We shall open our description of this favorite gem with our excellent old friend Nicols's rhapsodic outburst. "The Opalus is a precious stone, which hath in it the bright fiery flame of a Carbuncle, the pure, refulgent purple of an Amethyst, and a whole sea of Emerald's spring glory, or viresency, and every one of them shining with an incredible mixture, and very much pleasure." To our excellent friend's account we must add the finest species of this stone emit also the yellow of the Topaz and the blue of the Sapphire. It is, in one word, a natural prism, which, like the soap bubble or the three cornered glass, decomposes the sunbeam into its elements. About the cause of this decomposition "doctors disagree." Brewster's theory seems the most plausible, viz.: that this cause is the existence of fissures and cracks in the interior of the mass.

Professor Nicols notices nine varieties of this gem, all possessing more or fewer of the same general characteristics. Our space will permit our touching on but one. We may premise that the name is derived from the Greek "ops," eye—the Greeks, who highly valued the stone, believing it to have the power of strengthening the eye. We may add here, to save a fresh reference, that the Greeks fancied it had the effect to conciliate universal good will to its possessors, and therefore named it also "paideros," *i. e.* love of children. In the Apocalypse, Saint John compares the Celestial City, as a whole, to an Opal, as exhibiting all colors at once.

The finest of the Opal species is called the precious or noble Opal: Nicols names various parts of the East as producing it. Recent writers contradict him and say that Hungary, Saxony, the Faroe Islands and South America are its native localities. It is found in small gangs and nests of the volcanic porphyry formation.

This gem is used for rings, necklaces and diadems—the smaller specimens for mounting snuff-boxes, rings, etc. It still stands in very high estimation, though probably not so high as among the Romans, in whose day it was said Nonius, a Roman Senator, chose banishment rather than surrender a splendid Opal to Mark Anthony. Its present estimation may be judged from the fact that a single large Opal was lately sold in Europe for \$150 000. This gem has never yet been imitated.

The Imperial Mineralogical Cabinet at Vienna contains a precious Opal weighing seventeen ounces; and among the French Jewels is a cloak clasp mounted with an Opal, valued at 37,500 francs. It is surrounded by one hundred and ninety-seven other Brilliants.

(To be continued.)

## THE NEW JAPANESE COINS.

Advices have been received at the Treasury Department, from Japan, covering an official statement and *fac-similes* of the coins recently adopted by the Japanese government. They consist of one "yew," or dollar silver piece, weight, 416 grains, 9-10 fine. On the obverse is the usual Japanese dragon; in the centre, surrounded by the "yew," corresponding to 1871, the word "Japan" and the legend one dollar, all in Japanese characters. On the reverse is the sun radiating rays, which is the crest of Mikado, and under this a wreath, on one side of grape leaves, and on the other of oak leaves, fastened by a cord simulating a bow. This piece is the standard of value and is legal tender for all amounts.

The remaining coins consist of subsidiary silver and gold. The subsidiary silver is fifty seus, weighing 208 grains, 8-10 fine; the twenty seus weighing 83 2-10 grains, 8-10 fine; the ten seus weighing 41 6-10 grains, 8-10 fine; and the five seus weighing 20 6-10 grains, 8-10 fine.

The gold coins, which are legal tenders for \$100 pieces, are embellished on the obverse in the same manner as the silver.

On the reverse are in the centre the sun with radiating rays, surrounded by a small wreath of oak and grape leaves, and supported on each side by the Imperial gonfalon, one containing the full moon and the other the quarter moon. Above is the Treasury seal, small size, and below the crest of the head of the Treasury. The pieces are ten "yew," or dollars, weighing 248 grains, 9-10 fine; five "yew," weighing 124 grains, 9-10 fine, and two "yew," weighing 49 6-10 grains, 9-10 fine.

The copper pieces have on the obverse very nearly the same blazon, and on the reverse very nearly the same, with the legend "legal coin," and their value. They consist of the one seu, or one cent piece, or one one-hundredth of a "yew," and weighing 110 grains; the half "seu" or one two-hundredth of a "yew," weighing 55 grains; and the one "rin," answering to our mill, weighing 14 grains, being the one-thousandth of a "yew."

The subsidiary silver is a legal tender for one hundred pieces, the same as gold. None of these coins have been struck as yet, and the Governor, now here, proposes some changes, suggested by his examination of our system, one of which is the making of gold the legal standard and tender, and our assimilation of the weights to the standard proposed by the conventions on the unification of currencies.

## CURIOUS RESERVATION OF MONEY.

Some hundred years ago, Prince Dietrichstein sold his Silesian property to the Great Fredeirck for 333,333 $\frac{1}{3}$  ducats. The third of a ducat was then for the first time coined at the royal mint, especially to complete this sum. One year ago, the last of these Dietrichsteins died at Vienna, and among other funds were found those 333,333 $\frac{1}{3}$  ducats, untouched and unused.

## COIN SALES.

The sale of the Cauffman collection came off at Bangs, Mervin & Co.'s, May 3 and 4, and comprised an exceedingly interesting lot of American, foreign and ancient pieces. The sale was well attended on both days and the bidding was very spirited. Prices ranged much higher than at previous sales, greatly, no doubt, to the satisfaction of the owner. The interest in the sale was great, and drew bidders from Philadelphia, Boston and other cities. Some of the prices were as follows:

- 1794 Dollar, \$32.
- 1795 Dollar, fillet head, \$17.
- 1846 Proof Dollar, \$15.
- 1847 Proof Dollar, \$14.
- 1858 Proof Set, \$14 25.
- 1794 Half Dollar, \$12.
- 1795 Half Dollar, \$19.
- 1797 Half Dollar, \$16.
- 1805 Half Dollar, \$4 75.
- 1815 Quarter Dollar, \$6 25.
- 1794 Half Dime, \$11 50.
- Martha Washington Half Disme, \$44 50.
- 1795 Liberty and Security, brass, \$25.
- 1793 Chain Cent, \$15 50.
- 1804 Cent, \$13.
- 1825 Uncirculated Cent; \$9 50.
- 1795 Half Cent; thick planchet, \$29 50.

A collection of coins was sold at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s, New York, on the 1st and 2d of June. It comprised some fine Colonial and Washington pieces; cents and half cents; American gold; a few patterns and an assortment of Greek and Roman coins; American and foreign medals; also, a few scarce numismatic books. Not many of the pieces were extraordinary as to condition; neither did the pieces realized rate as high as in the Cauffman sale.

## TREASURE TROVE.

Mr. Hanson Garrett, of Strickersville, Pa., while plowing an old clearing, on Evan Garrett's farm, turned up an old earthen crock, containing thirty-three old Spanish dollars, dated 1776 and 1760, and one American dollar dated 1798. The crock was very rotten and fell to pieces from its own weight. In a few more furrows, Mr. John Barker, who was also plowing, turned up another, containing nine dollars and fifty cents in smaller change, ranging from quarter dollars to six-and-a-quarter-cent pieces.

## PRINTED PRICE LIST OF THE CAUFFMAN SALE.

We are now prepared to offer to our subscribers and patrons the printed price list of the Cauffman sale, four pages, very neatly printed and suitable for binding with the catalogue. Price, 25 cents.

FOREIGN EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

We have received, just as we go to press, several communications from our copartner, now in England, intended for this number of the journal, but omitted for want of room. The following letter we, however, insert, which will explain itself:

LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, May 17, 1871.

E. MASON, Esq., Liverpool:

DEAR SIR: I have great pleasure of informing you that, at a general meeting of this Society, held on the 16th inst., you were unanimously elected a corresponding member.

I beg to thank you, on behalf of the Society, for your very handsome donation of American coins from one dollar to one cent. Also, for your very rare series of old American paper currency, which will be exhibited at the next meeting of the Society.

Yours, truly,

CHARLES LIONEL REIS, Honorable Secretary.

21 Lord Street.

In our next issue, we shall give the proceedings of the Liverpool Numismatic Society, at their meeting of May 16, and hope to receive the proceedings of their next meeting in time for insertion in the July issue, as we understand that several very interesting numismatic papers will be read before the Society. Mr. Mason writes very glowingly of his reception and treatment by the English numismatists.

OUR PARTNER IN EUROPE.

We have received several letters from our senior partner, E. Mason, Jr., now in Europe. He says he is buying a large quantity of very fine pieces, both American and foreign; also, that he has bought a small collection of very fine American pieces. Our stock will be largely increased on his return, which we anticipate will be about the 15th of June. We have received rubbings of some very rare and curious coins that he has purchased. A description of them will be given in the next number of the magazine.

BUNKER HILL RELICS.

At an auction sale, in Boston, last month, there was sold, for one hundred and fifty dollars, a scrap book, containing a collection of manuscript accounts of the battle of Bunker Hill, fifty of them written or signed by soldiers who were in the fight, and two hundred other letters, documents, etc., mostly relating to Bunker Hill.

A CURIOUS INVENTION.

We were lately shown a French made envelope, with a little string running just inside the upper edge, and of which the end protruded. On taking hold of this end, and giving a gentle pull, the envelope is ripped open along the edge. By this mode of opening, all danger of destroying the envelope to get at the letter, or of injuring the letter itself, is done away with. The string is secured under the edge of the flap, at each end, by two little points of wax.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### POSTAGE STAMPS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Partly from *Le Timbre-Poste*, and partly from private sources, we are enabled to furnish early information respecting the new stamps of the French republic.

We referred last month to the rumor that, on the 1st of November, stamps, bearing a full length figure of the republic (or Liberty), and inscribed with words LIBERTE, EGALITE, FRATERNITE, were to be issued; and it now appears that an announcement to that effect was made in the *Paris Journal Officiel*; but though they are probably in preparation, they have not yet appeared. In their stead we have the old republic stamps back again! Strange mutation which brings them once more into currency. Advocates of the advantages of philately, when urging the historical value of a collection, have been apt to point their argument by reference to the stamps of 1848 and their successors; but none dreamed that the old finely engraved designs which have contributed so much to ornament our French page would one day be in circulation again; that the laurel crowned Emperor would be a prisoner; and a republican government occupy his place.—Still less could they anticipate that supplies of the recalled stamps would be issued whilst Paris was in a state of siege, and leave the capital by balloon. How much stronger the case for stamp collectors will now become, when for years hence they may point, in justification of their pursuit, to the stamps which, thus resuscitated, are connected, and that in the most direct manner, with one of the most important events in the world's history.

From a very interesting letter written by Dr. Magnus, forwarded from Paris *par balloon monte*, and published in the current number of our Belgian contemporary, we learn the following notice appeared in the *Petit Moniteur Universel* of the 14 October (published the previous evening). "Yesterday, the new stamps of the republic were put on sale at the central office of the *Hotel des Postes*. The offices of the *arrondissements* will be successively supplied with them; and in a few days, M. Rampont, the Postmaster-General, will have satisfied the sharp complaints on the subject which have been addressed to him by certain republicans."

Up to the present time only two values have been issued; they are the two which we suggested last month, as likely to appear the first:

10 centimes, bistre.

20 centimes, blue.

The stamps which are used in the capital are *perforated*; this, in itself, sufficiently distinguishes them from the original emission. Of the 20 c. we have now a copy before us, and find that, as Dr. Magnus states, the number of dents is the same as in the imperial 20 c., resulting from the employment of the same perforating machine. The color of the stamp, also, is, we may say, identical with that of the



20 c., blue, of the empire, but the tint of the paper is much lighter, being, in fact, hardly discernable. The 10 c. is described by Dr. Magnus as not resembling in color either the 1850 stamp, which was dark yellowish bistre, nor that of 1862, which is a paler shade of yellow; it is, in fact, a *reddish* brown.

Thus far the learned doctor. From a contributor, residing in France, we have information that both the 10 c. and 20 c. exist *unperforated*. As the supply of imperial stamps is now nearly exhausted, the provincial offices are beginning to receive from Tours a stock of the republican stamps of the two values. Our correspondent, who dates from Boulogne, says that the 10 c. is already in use there, and that the 20 c., of which a stock has been received, will be issued, as soon as the imperial stamps are used up. At Amiens, the 20 c. is in circulation.

Now, as to the perforation: The 10 c. stamps sold at Boulogne and the 20 c. of Amiens are unperforated, whilst the Boulogne officials affirm that the 20 c. are perforated. If this statement be correct then we get both varieties among the provincial supplies; but it becomes difficult then to say where the stamps were manufactured. To admit the stock was sent out from Paris by balloon is rather difficult, for the weight of such a quantity of paper as it would be composed of would be considerable, and further, if the stamps had been made in Paris, they would certainly have been perforated, and would most probably have been of the same color; whilst, in fact, the blue is darker and the 10 c. is of a *very pale yellowish bistre*. It is far more probable that they were made at Tours, and there being no perforating machine there, the supplies had to be despatched unperforated; and only the alleged possession of a perforated supply at the Boulogne offices militates against this hypothesis.

In a few days we shall know the truth about the Boulogne 20 c., but, meanwhile, we can affirm, after a most careful examination, that whilst the stamps used in Paris are from the original dies, *the provincial supplies have been printed either from new or retouched dies*, and we strongly incline to believe that the design has been entirely re-engraved. Comparison of a Tours stamp (as we will term it) with either a Parisian current reprint or an original, will show fifty differences in detail; hardly a single line in the Tours stamp is *identical* in position with its representative in the original; the head is rounder, there is less space at top between it and the edge of the pearled circle, the curve of the eyebrows is continued to the temple; all the lettering is smaller; on the right upper corner the last bar of the Greek border is carried clean up to the corner square; the disposition of the hair is not the same, and—most easy point in distinguishing—the shading of the neck is formed of thick straight continuous lines instead of the fine curved dotted ones. The general resemblance, however, is so great that one can hardly imagine it possible for any engraver, and particularly a provincial one, to follow the original one with such scrupulous accuracy. If, however, as is pretty

evident. supplies of stamps are being printed independently and simultaneously at Tours and Paris, there must be two sets of dies at work, and unless there were sent out from Paris casts from the original dies, there must have been new dies made at Tours. We hope we may be able to solve these interesting points in our next number. As to dates of emission, we may accept the 12th of October as that of the Paris printed pair, but we feel certain that the provincial supplies could not have appeared earlier than the middle of November. The Boulogne postmaster had made repeated applications for stamps to the Tours office, but he only received his supplies about the 20th ult., and the first letter from Amiens, bearing a 20 c. republic, is dated the 26th ult. Had any been used before, our contributor could hardly have failed to obtain information of the fact.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

#### NEW ISSUES.

FRANCE.—Early in April, all the stamps in the Paris post office were removed to Versailles, their value being two million of francs. The new employes in Paris sent around to the tobacco shops for all that were to be found, and finally were obliged to mark off payment on the letters with a pen. We have not heard whether the Commune issued any stamps. We have seen all the values of the present republican stamps surcharged diagonally, in large black type, "B. Ballon, P. E." They are said to have been used in Paris by the *ballon poste expedition*.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The *Honolulu Gazette* announces the appearance of new Sandwich Island stamps in the following manner: "*New Postage Stamps.*—Specimens of the new Hawaiian postage stamps were received by the Postmaster-General, on Monday, by the 'Comet.' The designs are very handsome and appropriate, and correspond with the two and five cent stamps now in use. The stamps received are of the denomination of one, six and eighteen cents; the one cent is violet colored, with a vignette of the late Princess Victoria Kamamalu; the six cent stamp is green, with the likeness of his Majesty; and the eighteen cent is pink, with the likeness of his late highness, M. Kekuanaoa, all of which are most perfect likenesses."

SARAWAK.—A new three cent stamp for Sarawak, bearing the head of the present rajah, looking to the left, has just made its appearance. It is printed brown on yellow, like its predecessor, but is a squarer stamp, and is lettered at the corners C.—B. and R.—S.

QUEENSLAND.—A correspondent sends us four specimens of the current six-pence watermarked Q and crown, and not previously noticed by us. The four specimens are of different shades, varying from emerald to chrome green.

GUATEMALA.—We have seen specimens of an issue for this republic, both postmarked and otherwise. They appear correct; but, in the present very dubious state of philatelic traffickers' consciences,

we cannot positively vouch for their genuine character. Some of our readers may possibly remember the essay figure in our number for January, 1858, emanating from the *atelier* of Mons. Hulot, of Paris. That type has been chosen for the set now under notice. For the benefit of those who do not possess or have not at hand the volume in question, the description is given as follows: Rectangular; color on plain white unwatermarked paper; perforated. An oval frame bears CORREOS DE GUATEMALA above; value in full beneath. The centre contains a shield, surmounted by the sun fully rayed; a branch of oak (!) and one of olive lies below. The spandrels exhibit a neat Greek ornamentation; and small squares, at the lower angles right and left, contain numerals of value. The essay alluded to was one centavo, blue. The existent set, as far as we have seen—but probably higher values are, or will be out—consists of

1 centavo, light brown.	10 centavos, blue.
5 centavos, full brown.	20 centavos, pink.

SPAIN.—*The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* notes that the current 25 milesimas is now bright mauve; and the *Timbre-Poste* announces the appearance of a new set bearing the representation of Amadeus I, on the 1st of July. A Turin engraver has submitted designs, but their acceptance is doubtful.

LUXEMBOURG.—The latter authority announces the change of color in the yellow 4 centimes of the duchy. It is now green.

RUSSIA.—We add another individual to the fast accruing Russian locals. The impression is round, composed of two circles printed in deep pink. The inner, which is considerably broader than the outer, bears a descriptive inscription in Russian characters, to the effect, as we are informed, that the stamp serves the rural post of the district of Tvev. The value, 2 k., is hand stamped in blue, more or less irregularly within the central circular space.

MEXICO.—*The Bath Magazine* notices a 3 centavos (eagle) of this country, dark brown on white laid paper. There is also a caution against imitations of the engraved 13 centavos of Maximilian. The inscription is in characters too large, and the groundwork of the oval is plain in lieu of being horizontally lined. They are printed both on white and bluish paper. It is stated that they were received direct from the German resident consul, but may have been counterfeited in America.

BAVARIA.—The perforated stamps of this kingdom are devoid of silken threads. They would, of course, have interfered with the convenient separation of the individuals. They are printed on laid paper, bearing a double diamond of a watermark. Those yet out are

1 kreuzer, green.	3 kreuzer, pink.	7 kreuzer, blue.
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ENGLAND.—The match box stamps, printed in view of the passage of the law imposing a duty on matches, were prepared at an expense of five thousand dollars. That this shall not be lost to the Treasury, it is proposed that the stamps be sold to collectors for their albums.

## UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

*(Continued.)*

- P. T. Ives (Coe's Matches), rect., 1 cent, blue; oblong, 8 cents, blue; 1 cent, black.
- Dr. D. Jayne & Son, Philadelphia, hexagonal, 1 cent, blue; 2 cents, black; 4 cents, green.
- W. S. Kyle, Boston, Mass., Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.
- T. Kensett & Co., Baltimore, rect., 1 cent, green.
- J. B. Kelley & Co., New York, Garnhart & Kelley, St. Louis (Kelley's Old Cabin Bitters), oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Kennedy's Family Medicines, rect., 1 cent, green.
- Lawrence & Cohen, New York, rect., 2 cents, blue; 5 cents, green.
- Jno. J. Sooy, New York, rect., 5 cents, black.
- Littlefield, rect., 1 cent, black.
- Lee & Osgood (Chas. Lee's Pills), Norwich, Conn., rect., 1 cent, blue.
- Lacour's Matches, New York, rect., 1 cent, black.
- George W. Laird, rect., 3 cents, black.
- Dr. McLane's Celebrated Liver Pills, Pittsburg, oblong, 1 cent, blue.
- Dr. McLane's Celebrated Vermifuge, Pittsburg, oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Dr. J. McLean, St. Louis, rect., 1 cent, black.
- McMaun's Elixir of Opium, New York, oblong, 1 cent, green.
- Merchant's Gargling Oil, Lockport, New York, rect., 1 cent, black; 2 cents, green.
- Misbler's Herb Bitters, Lancaster and Pittsburg, oblong, 4 cents, black; 6 cents, black.
- Moorehead's Magnetic Plaster, oblong, 1 cent, black.
- Mereudo & Seully, oblong, 2 cents, black.
- New York Match Co., oblong, 1 cent, green.
- Park City, Match Co., Kenosha, Wis., rect., 1 cent, green; 3 cents, brown.
- Poland's White Pine Compound, Boston, hexagonal, 4 cents, black.
- P. M. Co., Portland, Maine, Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.
- V. R. Powell's Telegraph Matches, Troy, N. Y., rect., 1 cent, blue; 1 cent, black.
- Pierce Match Co., Ills., oblong, 1 cent, green.
- Radway & Co., New York, oblong, 2 cents, black.
- D. Ransom & Co., Buffalo, rect., 1 cent, blue; 2 cents, black.

*(To be continued.)*

## NEW STAMP PACKET LIST.

Our new postage stamp packet list will be issued hereafter quarterly, commencing July 1. Lists sent free. All orders of ten dollars will be entitled to a discount of ten per cent. Special arrangements with agents.

**MASON'S**  
**COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'**  
**MAGAZINE.**

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**VOL. 5.**

**JULY, 1871.**

**No. 7.**

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**AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.**

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*  
*(Continued.)*

We have already referred to the artistic hand which he brought to his mechanical work. This was a characteristic naturally growing out of his strong love and devotion to art. In the society in which he was brought up, his father and brother eminent as painters—he come to a knowledge of the subject rare among amateurs. He was for many years a member of the Academy of Fine Arts, which his father had been instrumental in establishing, and, for the last fifteen years of his life, one of the Board of Directors, and a member of its most important committees. We are told by one of his eminent associates in the Academy, that “he was zealously devoted to the discharge of the duties assigned him, always observing a scrupulous regard for the interests of the contributing artists and pupils of the Academy. His courteous manners and almost feminine gentleness made him a great favorite with the lady students especially. He was sincere in the utterance of his convictions, honest in action and sound in judgment. His taste was refined and his idea elevated. He was in short, a most valuable member of the Board. His departure from the scene in which he labored so industriously and efficiently has created a vacuum not easily filled.

Mr. Peale was an excellent musician, and I believe a self taught one. He was endowed with a most agreeable cultivated tenor voice, to which the guitar was the proper accompaniment, and on which instrument he became a great proficient. His love of music was a passion, and in private circles and public associations he was foremost in promoting its cultivation. His house was for many successive seasons made charming to his friends, as the resort of the best amateur and professional talent of our city, met together to illustrate in a manner altogether worthy of the choicest instrumental and vocal compositions. Mr. Peale was one of the founders of the Musical Fund Society, to which Philadelphia owes so much as the means of spreading a cultivated musical taste among us. He was among the most active members in promoting its objects in art and charity and at his decease was President of the Society.

In many accomplishments, Mr. Peale was conspicuous, carrying into these the elegant refinement so marked in his character, and lending also the aid of his mechanical genius. The graceful art of archery was particularly attractive to him, and in his efforts to establish it as an addition to our out-door amusements I cannot but think he showed a taste and judgment in happy contrast to what has been exhibited in the development of those boisterous and half-savage games, cricket and base ball, of which we now hear so much. He was one of the founders of the club of United Bowmen, and a long series of medals and badges, which he preserved with some pride, attest a skill in which he was chief. His love of the art and affection for his fellow members was shown to the last, for by his special request his remains were borne to the grave by his associates of the club.

In another beautiful gymnastic art, that of skating, he was a proficient from his youth to the last years of his life. And it was, I think, an admirable sight to observe him, when past seventy, moving along, with firmness and grace, happy in the enjoyment of his younger friends, and never so pleased as when aiding by his hand or counsel the fairer sex. He was President of the Skaters' Club at his death. I ought to mention here that Mr. Peale was the inventor of the skater's reel, a simple expedient for rescuing persons breaking through the ice, that has probably been the means of saving many lives.

(To be continued.)

#### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE. Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

(Continued.)

The Pearl has always ranked very high among the ornamental stones, though far less costly than many of the others. It has been a special favorite with the ladies—more particularly with the young ladies—from time immemorial. It would be a sufficient evidence of this fact, if we even possessed no other, that it has passed into a figure of speech to typify whatever is pure and precious. The "pearl of great price" is one of the most sacred proverbs of our language. "My pearl of beauty," as all readers of oriental literature are aware, is a common title applied to a loved one by the poets and the poetic feeling of Persia and Hindostan. And, indeed, there is an aspect of purity, chasteness and sweetness in this gem, when employed in the decoration of a lovely female, which is lacking in other gems of far more imposing appearance.

But, as according to the Napoleonic adage, "there is but a step from the sublime to the ridiculous"—as, according to a second anonymous proverb, "extremes meet"—and as, according to Pope, "whatever is, is right"—"in erring Reason's spite"—this beautiful, pure and most valued gem is declared, by the savants, to be a diseased or

purulent secretion of an animal, standing or lying in the scale of existances as nigh to vegetable or mineral as it well could do without a complete identification with the same. This animal is a species of oyster, which, unlike its luscious synonym, is perfectly inedible, and would seem constituted, so far as we can judge, to get wounded, to suffer a seven years' malady, and then die for the purpose of embellishing the ear, the neck, the bosom or the wrist of those who are distractingly charming already!

The sounder opinion of the origin seems to be that some minute substance, such, for example, as a grain of sand, having got lodged within the shell of the creature, produces irritation, like a pebble within one's boot, and unable to "out with it," the tormented animal makes the best of a bad matter by covering it with a calcareous excretion from its own substance. It was once fancied that some external injury was essential to the production of the Pearl, but an experiment, suggested by the celebrated Linnæus, to pierce small holes in the shell of this oyster, and then restore it to its original bed, proved unsuccessful. The Chinese, however, are reported to have succeeded in something like this experiment. They thread upon fine silk small beads of Mother of Pearl, and introduce them into the shells of these animals, where they are speedily covered with a calcareous secretion, which converts them into veritable Pearls. The ancients poetically described these gems as drops of dew falling into the shells, when the animals rise to the surface in the month of May, and become transmuted into Pearls by some unexplainable action of the sun's rays.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

CANADA.

56. C. Obv.—Bouquet as in No. 55, with 2 rose leaves instead of 1 to left. Bottom of bouquet more open. Rev.—Same as No. 55, but ribbon which entwines end of wreath is much more slender.

57. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 6 rose leaves, 2 blades and 1 head wheat to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 2 leaves as in No. 39 (one over centre), 1 head and 1 blade wheat to left; in centre, 1 head wheat inclined to left. No bow, 2 flowing ribbons right and left. Inscription same as No. 49. Rev.—Open wreath of 18 leaves. Triangular bow inclined to right; ribbons lying parallel to ends of wreath; wreath close to word "MONTREAL." Edge plain.

58. C. Obv.—Full bouquet. 1 rose, 3 leaves, 3 shamrocks, 3 blades and 1 head wheat to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 4 leaves (as in No. 39), 1 head and 2 blades wheat to left; on top, 3 blades wheat, 1 straight upwards, 1 inclined to right and touching "C" in Commerce, the other to left and touching bottom of "R" in Agricul-

ture; one blade wheat between letters "R" and "I" in same word; long open bow to right, 2 ribbons to left. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE: BAS-CANADA." Rev.—Very open wreath of 18 leaves, almost touching at top. No bow; 2 bottom leaves extending as in No. 44; ends of wreath touch letters "N" and "R" in Montreal. Dot over letter "o" in Sou. Edge plain.

59. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks, 1 head wheat to right; 2 thistles, 2 shamrocks, 2 blades and 1 head wheat, 4 leaves as No. 39 (one over centre), to left, 2 blades wheat at top to right and left; open bow to left; short ribbon to right. "\*AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \*BAS-CANADA." Rev.—Same as No. 58.

60. C. Obv.—Open bouquet. 1 rose, 6 rose leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 head and 1 blade wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 3 thistle leaves, one forming centre, 2 blades and 1 head wheat, to left; on top, in centre, 1 blade wheat; very long flowing ribbon to right and left. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \*BAS-CANADA." Die cracked across letters "U" and "L" in Agriculture. Rev.—Open wreath of 18 leaves, no bow, but leaves as in No. 44; sprigs and branches very light. Both ends of wreath pass close to last stroke of "N" in Montreal. "UN SOU" more extended, and no dot over "o." Edge plain.

61. C. Obv. Same as No. 53. Rev.—Open wreath of 18 leaves. Slender triangular bow with 2 ribbons below, close to letters "T" and "E" in Montreal. Words "UN SOU" close together; dot over, and very close to letter "o." Edge plain.

62. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 5 leaves, 2 shamrocks, 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 thistle leaves, one over centre, 1 leaf, as in No. 39. between thistles, and 1 head wheat, to left; open bow to left; 2 ribbons to right. "\*AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE BAS \*CANADA." Rev.—Open wreath of 20 leaves, with sprigs; top leaf, but one on right side almost touches letter "N" in token. Flat open bow.

63. Brass. Same as No. 62.

64. C. Obv.—1 rose, 6 leaves, 1 shamrock, 1 blade and 1 head wheat, to right; 2 thistles, 2 leaves, one over centre, 1 head and 4 blades of wheat, to left, one of which touches letter "L" in Agriculture; long ribbon to left and right. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \*BAS CANADA." Rev.—Close wreath of 20 leaves. Very large open bow with ribbon entwined round stem of wreath, which nearly touches letters "N" and "E" in Montreal. Dot over "o" being near upper line.

65. C. Obv.—Same as No. 62, but flowers little differently arranged. Rev.—Same as No. 58.

(To be continued.)

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE LIVERPOOL (ENGLAND) NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

MAY 16.—The fortnightly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, in the small lecture room of the Free Library, William Brown street, when there was a very good attendance of mem-



bers. Mr. H. Chapman presided. A most interesting paper, entitled "A Sketch of the Copper Coinage of the French Monarchy," by Mr. Samuel Smith, Jr., was, in the absence of the author, read by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Charles Lionel Reis, and was illustrated with the coins mentioned therein. A great many coins, medals, curiosities, etc., were exhibited, far too numerous to enable us to note them. The following, however, may be enumerated: By the President: A two penny piece, penny, half penny and farthing of George III, 1797-8, all in proof condition. By Mr. Gustav H. Ahlborn: Sixteen French brass medals, representing the crowned heads of Europe, and a white medal of Frederick William III, King of Prussia. By Mr. Frost: A gold laurel coin of James I; also several groats of Henry V, VII, and VIII. By Mr. Brown: Two coins of Lucien Napoleon, struck for the island of Java. By Mr. Stewart: A fine bronze medal of the French Republic of 1848. By Mr. J. Harris Gibson: A silver coin of Arsacidæ; another of the Sassanian of the best period and in fine condition; also a scarce silver medal of Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of James I. By the Honorary Secretary: A fine bronze medal of Napoleon Bonaparte, struck to commemorate his intended landing in England in 1804. A twenty and a five franc gold piece of Hieronymus Napoleon, King of Westphalia; and various other French coins. A vote of thanks both to the author and reader of the paper was passed, and the meeting terminated.

JUNE 6.—A meeting of this Society was held this evening in the small lecture room of the Free Library, William Brown street, the President, Mr. H. Chapman, in the chair. There was an unusually large attendance of members for a scientific society, especially at this time of the year. The Librarian, Mr. H. Brown, announced the purchase by the Society of seventy works on numismatics, which with those already in their possession, form a most valuable library. The Curator, Mr. Ecroyd Smith, recorded several donations of coins, etc., towards the museum of the Society, amongst which we noticed a very handsome donation from Mr. E. Mason (corresponding member of the Society at Philadelphia), consisting of a dollar, half dollar and quarter dollar, American silver; a ten cent, five cent and three cent piece, silver; a five, three, two and one cent piece, in nickel and copper, all in proof condition, of 1871; and further a full set (22 notes) of the early Colonial paper money, from 3d. to £4. Several new members and corresponding members were elected.

After the preliminary business of the evening, Mr. Edwin Leighton proceeded to read a most interesting paper on "Local Tokens," which he illustrated with various coins from his collection. The author traced the difficulties of England during the great war with France, at the close of the last century, preventing it giving its attention to the coinage of small money; the rise of the canal system; the great impetus given thereby to trade; the cotemporaneous appearance of numerous private banks, supplying a local currency of larger value; and the coinage of copper tokens by leading manufac-

turers in the rising towns, supplying a general circulating medium readily acceptable and useful in carrying on the enlarging trade operations of this country. The essayist pointed out the importance of Liverpool at this period (circa 1789-1794), most of the tokens issued at other towns being also payable at Liverpool. Specimens struck at Bath, Lancaster, Coventry, Hull, Birmingham and other local centres of industry were produced. The Birmingham coinage being stamped as "Current everywhere," led to George III, when a Birmingham manufacturer was introduced to him, uttering his characteristic repetition: "Birmingham! Birmingham! ah! ah! bad people! bad people! make their own money!" The forethought of a grocer, Thomas Clark, who subsequently became a merchant, and his sons bankers in association with the great Thomas Roscoe, chiefly provided Liverpool with her coinage, and brief tracings of his career and history were offered by the essayist.

Several small notices of special interest to this Society were also read. Many coins, medals, curiosities, etc., were exhibited, which were as interesting as they were curious, a few of which we may enumerate: By the President: A bronze medal of Lord George Bentinck, by Wyon; a silver crown of George I, 1716, rose and plumes (this date is not mentioned in Hawkins); also a set of Maunday money of George IV, 1822 (in proof state). By Mr. D. Stewart: A first brass Roman coin of Nero, rev., "Nero;" also a first brass of Maximinus Pius, rev., "Victoria Germanica." By Mr. M. Gotham: A fine bronze medal, representing on the obverse the four allied Sovereigns—"Russia, Prussia, Austria and the Prince Regent;" on reverse the figures of "Peace and Plenty." By Mr. G. H. Ahlborn: A fine French medal of Queen Victoria, in commemoration of her leaving Ostend, Sept. 13, 1843. By Mr. Charles Lionel Reis, the Honorary Secretary: A fine bronze medal of William Pitt, with the inscription, "The man who, having saved the parent, pleaded with success for her children." This medal relates to Pitt's pleading for the independence of America, and his consequent success in causing peace between England and America. Another fine medal commemorating the election of Napoleon III, by 7,824,189 votes, December 2, 1852. A pewter farthing, with a copper plug in centre, of William and Mary, 1694. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Leighton, for his very admirable paper, was passed, the meeting terminated. Although this Society has only been in existence for six months, it may be congratulated on the success it has already so strikingly achieved.—*Liverpool Morning Post.*

#### THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

A stated meeting of the Society was held June 1, the President, Hon. Eli K. Price in the chair. The usual routine of business was transacted, and many donations and letters were received.

The committee on procuring a hall for the Society reported its ina-

bility as yet to obtain a suitable room, and, on motion, was continued.

Mr. Charles Piers exhibited a map of Paris, engraved in 1734, consisting of twenty sections, on a very large scale, each plate being about three feet square. He also showed the Society an old atlas of France, published in 1791.

Mr. Hoffman exhibited an original prospectus and subscription list of the *United States Gazette*, dated 1791, issued by John Fenno. Also some MSS. and correspondence relating thereto, including a fine holograph letter of Thomas Jefferson.

A communication was read relative to the lately discovered prehistoric caverns and occupants at Ribesdale, in England.

On motion, Dr. D. G. Brinton, the Curator of Antiquities of the Society, was desired to prepare, to be read before the Society, on July 4, 1876, a paper upon American Antiquities, etc.

During the absence of Mr. Phillips, the Corresponding Secretary, in Europe, Mr. Charles Henry Hatt was chosen Corresponding Secretary *pro tem.*, and Mr. J. Davis Duffield was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem.*, during the absence in Europe of the Recording Secretary, Mr. Hibler.

Mr. Hibler was directed, in concert with Mr. Phillips, Corresponding Secretary, to communicate with kindred societies and institutions abroad, and they were both instructed to report to the Society, on their return, of matters of interest.

Mr. Hart, the historiographer, offered for the consideration of the Society a letter, which he had prepared in the form of a circular, to be sent to each member of the Society, containing a request for biographical information, to be preserved in its archives for future use in preparing the regular memorials of deceased members, which was adopted.

The Corresponding Secretary's report for the quarter ending April 1, 1871, was read.

On motion, adjourned to October, 1871.

#### INDIAN TREATY MEDALS.

Can any one of our readers give the correct history of the Indian medals struck in England, by order of George I, for presentation to American Indian chiefs? We have examined four varieties of this medal, struck in brass.

No. 1. Obv., bust of George I; legend, "George, King of Great Britain;" rev., large Indian to the right, left hand resting on a bow, right hand extended, grasping an arrow; slim straight tree at extreme left; very small deer in front of tree; sun at the top; exergue blank. This type is peculiar in the posture of the Indian, who seems to be in a stooping position, right knee extended considerably beyond the line of the body, giving the figure a novel appearance; size 24.

No. 2. Obv., same as No. 1; rev., Indian erect, but leaning forward; deer standing in front of tree, on higher ground than No. 1;

tall narrow tree, following the curve of the medal; no sun at top; size 24.

No. 3. Obv., same as Nos. 1 and 2, with very slight variations; rev., small Indian, to the right, drawing his bow in the act of shooting a deer, the latter standing behind a tree, and nearly on a level with the Indian; sun at the top. This medal differs in the size of Indian, tree and deer; also in position of each; size 26.

No. 4. Obv. differs in bust of George I and in punctuation of legend from Nos. 1, 2 and 3; rev., tall finely formed Indian drawing the bow, as in No. 3; deer on a hill, behind a short tree, flowers and bushes in the back ground; sun at top; size 26. This medal is in uncirculated condition and is without doubt the most interesting and finest medal of the Indian series extant. R. C. Davis, Esq., of this city, has all these types in his cabinet and we are indebted to him for the use of the same.

#### HOME AGAIN.

Once more we are in the editorial chair, after a brief visit to England in search of coins and curiosities, and with a view of noting the condition of the coin trade abroad. A brief reference to our trip across the ocean may have interest to those of our readers who contemplate a similar excursion. A trip to London and return by the Inman line from New York, including expenses while in England—say a six week's excursion—can be made for three hundred dollars currency, including a visit to several of the larger towns of England between Liverpool and London. We made the passage in ten days between New York and Liverpool, and the return passage in eleven days. It was the intention of the junior editor, in our absence, to publish the letters we indited at the different cities in England; but, returning sooner than anticipated, we omit the letters and combine the numismatic items picked up abroad in this editorial.

Upon arriving at Liverpool, we visited the principal coin dealers and made the acquaintance of several members of the Liverpool Numismatic Society, an association in a very flourishing condition, whose members are talented gentlemen, and zealous in the good cause. This society was instituted in 1870, and has increased with wonderful rapidity, ranking next in England in point of success to its elder numismatic brother, the Manchester association. Considerable trade, in the old coin way, is carried on in Liverpool by the exchange brokers; but the dealers are found chiefly in Renshaw street, Lord street, Church street and Vauxhall road. Coins are cheap in England, when in poor condition, but fine coins are greatly appreciated, and command higher prices than in the United States. Ancient coins, when in fine condition, especially the early Greek and Roman, bring treble the price charged for them here. Rare and very fine tetradrachms vary from two pounds to twenty pounds each. The numismatists of Liverpool have exhibited considerable zeal in making up the different American series of coins and medals; and nearly all

the cabinets we examined included a series of United States coins. Young & Stockhall is the leading firm in the stamp trade, and do a very thriving business, while many of the stationery and book stores have a collection of stamps on sale, together with a good variety of stamp albums. In Manchester, about thirty miles from Liverpool, resides the venerable and distinguished numismatist, Dr. Clay, whose American cabinet of coins is, without doubt, the finest and most complete in Europe. We had the pleasure of inspecting this large collection and were much pleased with the different series, and surprised to find a number of pieces unknown in America. The United States cents, 1793 to 1814, are remarkably fine, but not proofs, as Dr. Clay has claimed in his pamphlet describing the cabinet, and published for private circulation. There are several large coin dealers in Manchester, and many collectors. The numismatic society is an old established institution here, and Dr. Clay, its able President, has managed his responsible position with great ability. London abounds with coin, curiosity and relic dealers. The stores we visited were all doing a profitable business. Lincoln & Son have a handsome store on one of the principal thoroughfares, and, from all appearances, we should judge their trade pretty extensive. Albert's store, on Oxford street, also presents an attractive appearance. Mr. Albert's private cabinet of ancient coins is the finest we ever examined, excepting, perhaps, the extensive collection of Webster, at Covent Garden. At the latter place our eyes sparkled and snapped over some choice American coins and superb ancient gold coins. As we intend visiting England, France and Germany in August or September, we shall close our present article, referring all our readers to a catalogue of coins, etc., picked up in Europe, and just published, with prices attached. We shall have occasion, from time to time, to allude to many incidents of our trip abroad in future numbers of this journal, and describe some of the curious things we have secured and have in store.

E. MASON, JR.

#### TO UNPROFITABLE NOVICES.

Among our monthly customers, who purchase this journal as it is issued, and who have small and very poor collections of coins, there are a number of troublesome individuals who boast of having picked up all the dates of United States coppers, excepting 1793, 1799, 1804 and 1809, at a cost of one cent each, and who would not pay more than the intrinsic value for any coin, however rare. These unprofitable patrons consume our time and patience by writing letters inquiring how much we will pay for their collections, and as they have secured a coin circular, catalogue or chart of the prices we ask for all American coins, they frequently figure up their small and valueless collections by the same, and kindly inform us that upon receipt of one hundred dollars, more or less (as the case may be), they will forward the coins by express. Recently, we received the following letter: "I have seventeen 1797 United States cents, which you

charge ten dollars each for, amounting to one hundred and seventy dollars. Shall I send them to you for that amount? and how can I get the money?" Now, the 1797 cent this correspondent alludes to was described as uncirculated—price, ten dollars; while his lot of 1797's would not be worth ten cents each.

In order to quiet a few of these inveterate bores, we would say:

First. We never answer a letter of this kind, or any other, containing queries of interest to the writer, unless a postage stamp is enclosed.

Secondly. A foolish question is not worth answering; such as, "What will you give for a set of United States cents?"

Thirdly. We wish it understood that a knowledge of the condition and date of a coin is necessary to form an idea of its value. We would not buy a horse, house, coat, hat nor boots without seeing them, or knowing their exact condition.

Lastly. We cannot see the date on a coin that has had the date destroyed by corrosion or friction; and it is useless to send it with the following request: "I send you a cent, the date of which I cannot make out. Please let me know what date it is and how much it is worth."

Few of our readers are aware of the petty annoyances a coin dealer is subject to in the numerous communications received from unthinking novices who oftentimes want a description of all American coins and their value sent them in a letter by next mail. We hope this gentle reminder will throw light upon the benighted numismatist, and that, hereafter, we shall be exempt from the flood of meaningless epistles, concerning coins, to which we have been a patient victim for now too long a term. Quit it!

#### REVIEWS.

We have received a little pamphlet of four pages from the author, Edward Cogan, New York, entitled *Table of Gold, Silver and Copper Coins. Not issued by the United States Mint.*

Upon referring to the contents, we find the title is rather paradoxical, as there are a number of pieces alluded to that were issued by the United States Mint, viz.: 1849 double eagle; 1836, 1838 and 1839 pattern dollars; 1805 over 4 half dollar; 1850 pattern three cent piece; copper and nickel coinage from 1793; 1856 pattern nickel cent; 1864 two cent bronze piece; 1865 three cent nickel piece; 1866 five cent nickel piece, etc. Many persons might naturally suppose, from the title of this little work, that a table of foreign coins was alluded to, as it refers to coins *not struck at the United States Mint*. How is it possible to give a table of *United States coins* not issued? Dates or years when coins were not struck would have been a better title. We offer this suggestion for the benefit of the second edition. The pamphlet is of service to novices, exhibiting at a glance the years when United States coins were not issued, thus

saving a useless and unprofitable hunt for pieces not coined. The work is for sale by the author, or may be had at this office. Price, twenty-five cents.

*Batty's Copper Coinage of Great Britain, Local and Private Tokens, Jettons, &c. Manchester, England.*

We are in receipt of seven parts of this valuable work, which includes upwards of one thousand varieties of English tokens, and bids fair, when completed, to be a valuable aid to the numismatic student. Our readers can be supplied with Parts One to Seven, twenty pages to each number, for seventy-five cents each, by giving us one month's notice.

#### NEW MEDALS.

F. B. Smith & Co., of this city, have just issued the following medals, which we will mail free of postage; white metal proofs, 50 cents each; copper proofs, \$1 25 each.

No. 1. Obv., bust of Pope Pius IX; rev., cross keys and tiara; size 24.

No. 2. Obv., child kneeling; legend, "Those that seek me early shall find me;" rev., Bible, wreath, scroll and crown of thorns; legend, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God;" size 24.

No. 3. Bust of John Wesley; legend, "The best of all is, God is with us;" rev., inscription in seven lines; legend, "Jesus loves me, and I must love Jesus;" size 24.

The copper proofs are struck expressly to order for collectors. Address all orders to this office. Messrs. Smith & Co. have also issued a medalet, in silver; obv., Independence Hall; rev., Independence bell, with appropriate inscriptions; size 12. Price, 50 cents.

#### COINS OF THE NEW FRENCH REPUBLIC.

1870 AND 1871.

During the fall of 1870, the Republic of France, having secured the five franc and two franc dies of the old republic, issued the two pieces, which, as far as we could ascertain from the French refugees, in London, were the only denominations issued by the new government of France. There are two types of the 1870 five franc piece; one having an oak wreath on the reverse surrounded by "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," the other and later issue having a laurel wreath without legend. There are also two types of the 1871 two franc piece, differing in the same manner on reverses as the five franc pieces. In other respects, the old and new Republic designs agree.

#### NEW PRICED CATALOGUE.

We have issued a priced catalogue of twenty pages, containing many very rare and very fine American coins, medals, etc., including a large number of desirable pieces, in stock and for sale. Many of the coins enumerated were recently obtained in Europe. We have sent by mail a copy of this catalogue to each of our patrons.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. C. L.—Perhaps we may publish the notes taken down during the recent little excursion to England. Although very little of interest can be found concerning numismatics, and the private diary refers chiefly to the voyage in crossing and recrossing the Atlantic ocean, we will consider your proposal, however.

H. B., LIVERPOOL.—The coins were sent you by mail. We hope to hear from you often. Send us the proceedings of your next meeting.

O. A. J., LANSING.—The 1811 dime, when very fine or uncirculated, is considered a rarity, and may be called scarce in ordinary condition. Thanks for the newspaper. The Victoria medal is common—worth 25 cents in proof condition. Mailed the price list of coin sale.

H. F. A., PORTSMOUTH.—Will send price lists of coin sales as they are issued. \$1 40 received and account square.

J. E. W., WESTFIELD.—Subscription is received and magazines mailed. Also, coin price list.

J. KING, LONDON.—Will see you in September.

A. R. T., SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND; P. S., A. L., N. MACL. AND R. W.—Magazines mailed from February to July, inclusive.

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.—D. T. Batty will please accept thanks for his handsome work, "Copper Coinage of Great Britain," etc. Magazines, etc., mailed.

LONDON, ENGLAND.—Coin dealers and others having collected American pieces for Mr. Mason will please retain them until his return to England, or send word by mail prior to August 15.

STAMP DEALERS.—Please send address to this office.

## COIN SALE.

A small collection of silver and copper coins was sold on the 21st of June, at Birch's auction rooms, in this city. About twenty-five persons were in attendance, including Mr. Cogan, from New York. Nothing remarkable in the catalogue; otherwise, in regard to the number present upon such a warm day.

## NUMISMATIC IMPUDENCE.

The *New York Express* thinks that the greatest piece of impudence it can conceive of is putting the motto, "In God we trust," on bogus five cent nickels.

## PRICED LISTS.

We have now ready the priced pamphlet for catalogue of coin sale, in New York, June 1 and 2. Price, 25 cents.

## DISCONTINUED.

The United States Mint, in Dahlonega, in Northern Georgia, has been discontinued.



## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

**GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.**—From information received, we understand the stamps of the North German Postal Confederation will shortly have run their course. Collectors, hasten then to complete your sets (or partial sets) of imperforate, rouletted or perforated individuals, before it becomes too late. Not only will the existing impressions be superseded, but the pages hitherto devoted to them may be closed against additions; the very name will be extinct. The forthcoming issue being intended to include Baden, Bavaria and Wurttemberg under their jurisdiction, the emissions of those countries have but a brief time to reign; and their pages also may be permanently arranged. On the admission of these southern kingdoms into the Postal Confederation, the term "North" would be a misnomer; and a fresh leaf (or leaves) must be installed in albums, under some such title as the above. In all probability, Elsass and Lothringen will be included in the circuit; and the stamps described last month from *existent specimens* will never hold *official* existence.

**PORTUGAL.**—We now have a 100 reis of the new type. It is of a very pale lilac, like the second edition of the same value which it now replaces. The 20 reis is also out.

**LIVONIA.**—M. Moens states that the Packenmarke stamp is now of a yellow-green instead of a blue-green hue. Also that the "griffin" adhesive is superseded by the type now issued. The centre is green, the remainder (central oval frame excepted, which is white) is red or carmine. The impression is white, on unwatermarked and imperforate paper.

**BURMAH.**—According to our Bath contemporary, stamps are contemplated to be issued in this far eastern kingdom for fiscal purposes. Not only receipt, deed stamps, etc., are proposed, but postals also. Another page for our already plethoric albums.

**SPAIN.**—The Belgium magazine describes the type contemplated for emission next month. The portrait of Amadeus I., bearded and moustached, in a centre oval, turns considerable to the right; ESPANA above, value below, angles ornamented. This stamp is pronounced to be the handsomest yet known for Spain.

**URUGUAY.**—The same authority declares that the 5 centavos is now ultramarine in color, and that the 10c. shows on the cipher DIZZ instead of DIEZ.

**JAMAICA.**—M. Moens quotes two specimen stamps of the 3d. pale green and 6d. violet, watermarked with cc and crown, thence concluding there is proposed change in the Jamaica watermarks. We received the former with cc and crown more than two years since.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**—We have just received specimens of the 1 cent Prince of Wales, the color of which is changed to a dusky lilac. The

face less shaded and the eyes much contracted greatly alter the likeness and sadly for the worse.

CASHMERE.—The same authority mentions the existence of a black  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna of this country, dated 1867, not on the usual plain, but on laid paper. This stamp is a perfect square.—*Philatelist*.

#### NEWS FOR OUR ENGLISH COTEMPORARIES.

*The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath, and *The Philatelist*, Brighton, in their June issues, are under a cloud or in the dark in reference to a knowledge of whose handsome bust ornaments and honors our new seven cent postage stamps. Would they credit the fact that the individual's profile there represented is as familiar to Americans as their own loved Queen's phiz is to Britons? Would they believe that the individual in question held one of the highest positions within the gift of a free people? That he managed the war department during the little *unpleasantness* with our southern brothers with consummate skill? That he died beloved and honored, and that his memory will be revered while stands the nation to which he was a devoted servant? That all this is *news* to our over-the-water philatelic apostles we can truly believe after the following:

*The Philatelist* says, in alluding to the seven cent stamp: "We have not yet ascertained the original of the very handsome face depicted, of which the cut gives but a very faint idea."

*The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, equally mystified, remarks: "It presents a likeness, in profile, of a gentleman whom nature has blessed with a beard of unusual length, whose name we know not, and of whose particular 'walk' in American political life we find no indication in the severely simple ornaments which surround the oval frame." Know, then, gentlemen, that the person represented was the late Edwin M. Stanton, formerly Secretary of War of the United States, and one of the bright particular stars that Americans delight to honor, and whose services are held in grateful remembrance.

#### POSTAL CARDS IN CANADA.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada, it is stated, will, in a short time, issue postal cards similar to those in use in Great Britain. It will be recollected that by this plan ordinary communications of interest only to the sender and the receiver are written on one side of a card, the size of an ordinary letter envelope, and the address is written on the other side, which contains the embossed postal vignette. The Canadian postal cards will have ruled lines for the address, in this respect differing from the English cards.

#### OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.

Mr. Seely recently moved, in the House of Commons, that the postage between England and America should be reduced to one penny. Mr. Monsell, however, declared that such a reduction would be impossible at present.

### THE BRITISH POST OFFICE.

It is stated that during 1870 there were nine hundred and forty million letters passing through the post offices of Great Britain. Of the whole number, it is alleged that only twenty-seven thousand letters were lost or mislaid, and of three million registered letters and packages passing through the post office only twelve were lost. From 1866 to 1870, there were one hundred and ninety-three persons prosecuted on the charge of stealing letters, and one hundred and seventy-three were convicted, of whom one hundred and sixty-nine were employed in the post office.

### RARE LOCAL STAMPS.

In our next month's issue we shall give photographic illustrations of the Greenville, Alabama, stamp and the Washington, D. C., "One Cent Dispatch," with cavalier on horseback. These two stamps are now in the possession of R. C. Davis, Esq., of this city, and both are genuine issues, as represented.

### NEW METHOD OF STAMPING CIGARS.

The present method admits the reverse stamps indiscriminately. It is proposed to have a stamp with strap sides to the box in the centre, coming underneath the cover, so that the lid can be opened without destroying the stamp and the segars be inspected. If the segars are removed, the stamp is destroyed by taking them out.

### SEVEN CENT POSTAGE STAMP.

The new United States seven cent for stamp postage to Germany is made obsolete by the reduction of postage between Germany and the United States to five cents.

### UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPS.

An entire set of new revenue stamps will soon be issued, differing materially from all others now in use in the United States.

### POSTAL MONEY ORDER OFFICES.

Four hundred new postal money order offices will be established this month, making the total number in the neighborhood of three thousand.

### A LEARNED POSTMASTER.

A Wisconsin postmaster has written to Washington for "some eternal revenue stamps," saying he has "several cols for them."

### A CURIOSITY! THE CONFEDERATE SPELLING BOOK.

This book was adapted to the use of schools, or for private instruction, in the Southern States. It was published in 1865, at Richmond, Va. Boards, 161 pages. Price, one dollar. We have only ten copies of this work, which is out of print.

## UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

*(Concluded.)*

- D. M. Richardson, Detroit, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, red; 3 cents, blue; 3 cents, red.  
Rush's Medicines, oblong, 1 cent, green.  
Ring's Vegetable Ambrosia, star, 4 cents, black.
- E. J. Russell, Ashburnham, Mass., rect., 1 cent, black.
- H. & W. Roeber, New York, Union Match, rect., 1 cent, blue.  
Dr. C. W. Roback's Scandinavian Blood Pills, rect., 1 cent, black.
- Safety Matches, Boston, rect., 1 cent, black.  
Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, Buffalo, rect., 2 cents, black.  
Schenck's Mandrake Pills, Philadelphia, oblong, 1 cent, green.  
Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Philadelphia, oblong, 6 cents, black.
- A. L. Scoville & Co., Cincinnati, oblong, 1 cent, black; 4 cents, green.
- Star Match Corporation, Portland, Maine, rect., 1 cent, black.
- Swift & Courtney's Diamond State Parlor Match, Wilmington, rect., 1 cent, blue.  
Swaim's Panacea, Philadelphia, oblong, 6 cents, red; 8 cents, red.
- H. Stanton, Syracuse, New York, Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.  
Dr. E. L. Soule & Co., New York, oblong, 1 cent, blue.
- T. Matches, 1 cent, green.  
Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water, Troy, New York, rect., 1 cent, black.  
United States Proprietary Medicine Co., Cincinnati, rect., 1 cent, black; 1 cent, black, on yellow paper; oblong, 4 cents, black; 6 cents, black.
- Alex. Underwood & Co., Matches, 1 cent, green.  
Wilder, Louisville, oval, 1 cent, green; 4 cents, carmine.
- Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, oblong, 1 cent, black; 2 cents, black.
- R. & G. A. Wright, Philadelphia, oblong, 1 cent, blue; 2 cents, black; 3 cents, red; 4 cents, green.  
Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills, rect., 1 cent, green.
- Wilmington Parlor Match Co., rect., 1 cent, black.
- Wise & Co., New York, oblong, 1 cent, black.  
Dr. J. Walker's Vinegar Bitters, San Francisco and New York, oblong, 4 cents, black.
- Zisemann, Griesheim & Co., St. Louis, Ætna Matches, rect., 1 cent, green; 1 cent, blue.  
Dr. Herrick's Sugar Coated Pills, rect., very large, 1 cent, black.  
J. H. Zeilin & Co., rect., 2 cents, green.  
Jno. J. Levy, New York, rect., 5 cents, black.  
Kennedy's Family Medicines, rect., 2 cents, green.

## OBSOLETE STAMPS.

A cow in Keokuk ate up sixty dollars' worth of whisky stamps.

### UNIQUE CONFEDERATE LOCAL STAMP.



The stamp here represented was presented to R. C. Davis, of Philadelphia, by his brother, who was residing in Alabama during the civil war, and by the latter received on a letter from Greenville, Alabama, in the way of business. Color blue—"PAID FIVE, Greenville, Alabama," in red letters—on white glazed paper, apparently fine wall paper.

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### WASHINGTON CITY LOCAL STAMP.

This stamp was in use a short time in 1856, and is so rare that its existence has been frequently doubted. We have copied the original, which was cut from the envelope of a letter in possession of R. C. Davis, Philadelphia. Color, violet on white paper.

The impressions given in this number are the best we could obtain by photography.

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. 5.

AUGUST, 1871.

No. 8.

### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

(Continued.)

Pearl fisheries exist in various portions of the globe, though at present the most productive are those off the island of Ceylon, on the coast of Coromandel and in the Persian Gulf. The Romans, it is said, found Pearls in Britain, two thousand years ago, and in modern times the Scottish rivers have supplied considerable quantities, though not of the finest quality. Several German rivers and two or three Russian provinces also furnish them, as do likewise the Bay of Panama and the coast of Colombia, in this western hemisphere, though the last-named are pronounced inferior to those of the Orient.

Ceylon, however, would seem to be the principal present fishery for this species of gem. The scene presented at the time, which embraces the months of April and May, is described as being very striking. One hundred and fifty thousand people are assembled here from all quarters of the East, and are lodged in huts on the seashore, composed of a few poles stuck in the ground, interwoven with bamboo and covered with leaves of the cocoa-nut palm. Of course, this number of men occupy a large fleet of boats, each of which carries a captain, a pilot, and twenty men, of which last ten are experienced divers. Five of these descend at once, each carrying a net or basket to contain the mussels, together with a strong knife for detaching them, as also for defence against the sharks. These divers remain under water from fifty seconds up to two minutes. They are able to make forty or fifty plunges in a day, and to bring up, on each occasion, about one hundred oysters.

Each boat owner has a shallow pit fenced round, in which his oysters are stored and allowed to putrify under a burning sun. When thoroughly dried they are drenched in sea water, after which they are easily opened and render their pearly contents. The Pearl is not attached to the shell but is loose within it. The finest Pearls are perfectly globular, white, radiant, and seemingly translucent without being actually so.

In order to clean, round and polish the Pearls to the state in which we see them, a powder is employed, which is made of the Pearls themselves.

Mother of Pearl is the interior, silvery layer of various shells, especially those of oysters abounding in the East Indian seas, and is so valuable as to be employed for various purposes of manufacture. The beautiful tints of this substance are owing to its surface being covered with minute grooves, which decompose the reflected light of the sun. Sir David Brewster is said to have first discovered this structure of the shell. These grooves are often so small that, as seen by the microscope, three thousand of them are comprised within a single inch.

The art of making artificial Pearls has, by the Parisian manufactures, been brought to such perfection that even professional dealers cannot, in all cases, distinguish between the real and the imitative. This art originated with a French bead maker, named Jasmin, who noticed that a certain small fish, when washed, deposited fine, silver colored particles in the water. These particles he found to possess much of the lustre of Pearls, and, having made small beads of gypsum, and covered them with this substance, he found them greatly admired and sought after. With certain alterations, suggested by the ladies themselves, he raised this manufacture into a lucrative business. Four thousand of these fishes are required to supply one ounce of these Pearl manufacturing scales, and it was discovered, eventually, that they might be preserved from putrefaction by immersion in a solution of ammonia.

(*To be continued.*)

#### AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.*

(*Continued.*)

But the activity of Mr. Peale was by no means limited to his professional duties, or to art and recreation. He was zealous in good works. In particular, the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind long engaged his sympathy and unwearied labor. He was elected a Manager in 1839, served on its most important committees, and was finally elected President in 1863, holding that office at his decease. He was rarely absent from the managers' meetings, and presided only a few weeks before his death. His tender, affectionate manner made him greatly loved by his pupils, while his intelligence and the soundness of his judgment secured the esteem and confidence of the officers and of his fellow managers.

For some years before his death, Mr. Peale was greatly interested in that branch of archæology which relates to the so-called Stone Age. He determined to make a collection of implements illustrating that age, and by energy and patience succeeded in accumulating over twelve hundred specimens, many of them very choice. The most of these were gathered by himself at the ancient homes of the Shaw-

nees and Delawares, around the Water Gap, where he spent many autumns; others were secured by exchange or purchase. These have all been arranged for easy examination on a plan devised by himself, and full of his characteristic ingenuity and taste, and he has left behind a manuscript catalogue with an introduction and full descriptive details which leaves nothing further to be desired. It affords me great satisfaction to add that this valuable collection, the latest labor of Mr. Peale, is to be presented to this Society.

I have left to the close what perhaps should have been earliest mentioned, all reference to Mr. Peale's association with our own Society. He was elected a member October 18, 1833, and ever after took a constant and active interest in our proceedings. He was for many years one of the Curators, and filled that office at his death. Our published minutes show many communications from him, on a variety of subjects, but of late these were mostly relative to the stone age, on which he was always heard with interest inspired by his enthusiasm and fullness of knowledge.

Mr. Peale was twice married. By his first marriage, which took place in his minority, he had a daughter, his only child, who still survives. His second wife was a niece of Stephen Girard. She lives to lament the death of her husband, and I may not, therefore, refer more particularly to those accomplishments and virtues by which she crowned his happiness and made delightful his home.

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

66. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose with bud, 3 leaves, 2 heads and 1 blade wheat to right; 1 thistle, 2 leaves, 2 shamrocks, 1 blade and 1 head wheat to left. No bow, strings to right and left. Same inscription as No. 64. Rev.—Wreath of laurel (32 leaves), with sprigs between. Very large open bow with ribbon over front of wreath. One end of ribbon on letter "T," the other between "R" and "E" in Montreal. Dot over "o." Edge plain.

67. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 6 leaves, 2 heads and 3 blades wheat to right; very large thistle, 1 leaf, 3 shamrocks, 2 broadblades wheat to left. Ribbon same as No. 66. Inscription punctuated same as No. 64, but words very close to each other. Rev.—Same as No. 66. Edge plain.

68. Brass. Same as No. 66.

69. C. Obv.—Bouquet (very open). 1 rose, 8 leaves, two of which (near the top of bouquet) turn over towards left, 1 shamrock and 1 head wheat to right; large thistle, 2 leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 head and 2 blades wheat to left; on top, sprig of shamrock with 3 leaves. Very long ribbons to right and left. Top of bouquet quite close to inscription, which is the same as on No. 64. Rev.—Wreath as on No. 66, but with 40 leaves, 22 to right and 18 to left; same



bow as No. 66, but end of ribbon to left turns upwards immediately over letter "t." No dot over "o" in Sou. The words "UN SOU" are inclined towards right side of the wreath. Edge plain.

70. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose and bud, with 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks, 1 head of wheat, inclined over rose to right; 2 thistles, 3 leaves (one forming centre), 2 shamrocks, 1 rose leaf, 2 blades and 1 head wheat to left; on top 3 blades wheat. Very slender, open bow to right, 2 ribbons to left. Same inscription as No. 59. Rev.—Wreath of 17 leaves, 9 to right, 8 to left; slender triangular bow and small ribbon. Stem of left side of wreath passes between "R" and "E" in Montreal; top of wreath very open. Edge plain.

71. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 2 thistles, 3 leaves (2 large and 1 small), one of the large ones forming centre of bouquet; 3 blades and 1 head wheat to right; 1 rose, 5 leaves (one turning over centre thistle leaf), 3 leaved sprig of shamrock, 5 blades and 1 head wheat to left. Small, but thick bow to left, short ribbons hanging down to right. Head of wheat to right nearly touches first "M" in Commerce. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE BAS CANADA." Rev.—Heavy wreath of 24 maple leaves, connected by a double bow; ribbons entwined round ends of wreath, top leaves of which touch each other. In centre of wreath in very bold letters "UN SOU." Inscription, "BANQUE DU PEUPLE . MONTREAL." Very thick coin and milled edge.

(To be continued.)

#### SIR WALTER SCOTT'S AUTOGRAPH.

In June, 1834, Mr. John G. Moxey, now of Philadelphia, being in the Study at Abbotsford, was presented with three lines cut from the manuscript of the "Crusaders" in his presence. These lines, mounted in the centre of an affidavit, were neatly photographed, and copies, on cards, presented by Mr. Moxey to the great Sanitary Fair, in 1864. The words on this fragment are: "Remnant of what had been the empire of the Visigoths in that province. It was commanded by a prince named Euilo, who had hitherto been opposed to Charles Martel and his family, but now implored his assistance against cun—"

Knowing Sir Walter's writing as well as we know our own, we have no doubt that this particle of an autograph is authentic. Mr. Moxey received it when Scott had been nearly two years dead; and therefore not, as we have seen it stated, from Sir Walter himself. The photograph, neatly mounted, is on sale, price one dollar, at the jewelry store of Robbins, Clark & Biddle, 1124 Chestnut street, who also have the original on view. *That*, it seems, is purchasable for three hundred dollars; if this price had been set down as three dollars it would have been the *full* value of the article.

Autograph collectors recognize four grades, viz.: 1. The autograph letter signed and dated. 2. The autograph written in the third person. 3. A mere signature. 4. Writing without any signature. Mr.

Moxey's scrap belongs to the last and least valued class. We take his word that he received the morsel of handwriting at Abbotsford. But what satisfies us is not proof for the world. From whom did Mr. Moxey get the bit of writing? What authority had that person to mutilate one of the Waverley manuscripts?

As for the value of three lines of Scott's "copy," unsigned, unauthenticated (for its coming from Abbotsford proves nothing), we say that three dollars would be the utmost. We possess at least a dozen letters, all in Sir Walter's own writing, some of them with seal and postmark (the strongest corroborations of authenticity), and some of which as yet have never been published, and if Mr. Moxey's three lines are worth three hundred dollars, our Scott's autographs are worth ten thousand dollars. If Mr. Moxey desires to possess a genuine letter of Scott's, written in May, 1814, when "Waverley" was in press, he can do so. The writing covers two large quarto pages, containing thirty-seven lines, with the signature in full, "Walter Scott," and the date postmarks are very legible. According to Mr. Moxey's estimate of one hundred dollars per line, irrespective of signature, this letter is worth thirty-seven hundred dollars—worth double that, indeed, for it is as fully authenticated as any autograph in existence. Mr. Moxey can have it for two thousand dollars—nay, for one-tenth of that moderate amount, if he pleases. At this rate of one hundred dollars per line, there is a fortune for him in the transaction.

We know very well that this article will be largely copied, and predict that when autograph dealers and autograph collectors read it they will smile over the three hundred dollar demand for three lines (which, though probably in Scott's writing, are unsigned and unauthenticated), as the very best autographic joke of the season—aye, or of any season.—*Press, June 29, 1871.*

#### THE RED CENT'S HISTORY.

As the old red cent has now passed out of use and, except rarely, out of sight, like the "old oaken bucket," its history is a matter of sufficient interest for preservation. The cent was first proposed by Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution, and was named by Jefferson, two years after. It began to make its appearance from the mint in 1792. It bore the head of Washington on one side and thirteen links on the other. The French Revolution soon created a rage for French ideas in America, which put on the cent, instead of the head of Washington, the head of the Goddess of Liberty—a French Liberty, with flowing locks. The chain on the reverse was replaced by the olive wreath of peace. But the French Liberty was short-lived, and so was her portrait on our cent. The next head or figure succeeding this—the staid, classic dame, with a fillet around her hair—came into fashion about thirty or forty years ago, and her finely-chiseled Grecian features have been but slightly altered in the lapse of time.—*Philadelphia Sunday Transcript, June 11.*

Mason & Co. write us as follows, in reply to the article in our last

issue, "The Red Cent's History:" In your last Sunday's issue, we find an article entitled "The Red Cent's History;" and as said article contains several errors, we would be pleased to see them corrected in the same journal they appeared. The first United States cent was issued by order of Congress, in 1787, and is termed by numismatists the "Fugio," or "Franklin Cent." Congress passed an act, October 16, 1786, for the establishment of a mint, and a contract having been made for coining coppers, the Franklin cent (said to have been designed by Benjamin Franklin) was issued in large quantities. On the obverse of the coin is a sun dial, above which the sun appears; under the former is the legend, "Mind Your Business." Upon the left side, the word "Fugio;" on the right side, the date, "1787." On the reverse, a circle of thirteen links or rings, forming an interlinked chain, representing the thirteen original States; within the circle of rings, on a small circular band, is the legend "United States," and in the centre of the latter, in three lines, the motto, "We are one." Robert Morris and Thomas Jefferson may have aided, by their wise and practical suggestions, the early coinage of the United States, but neither of these statesmen suggested a cent of 1792, with head of Washington upon one side and thirteen links upon the reverse, as stated in your article. No coins of this description were ever issued. The 1792 cents, of which there are several varieties, bear the heads of George and Martha Washington on obverses, while the reverses of some have the spread eagle, and others the usual legend, "United States of America," etc., within a laurel wreath. The first regular coinage of copper cents by the mint, in this city, was in 1793, obverse a head of Liberty, with flowing locks, and on reverse thirteen links interlocked in a circle, representing the thirteen original States. There were three types of the 1793 cent issued—Link, Wreath and Liberty Cap, and at least a baker's dozen of varieties of these special types. The Fillet Head (hair tied behind in a cue) made its appearance on the cents in 1796, and disappeared in 1808, a period of sixty-three years, instead of thirty or forty, as given in your article, since the fillet head appeared on the copper cent. By correcting some of the many errors, floating unchecked for years through the public press, future historians may be able to know something of our early efforts at coining money.—*Transcript, June 18.*

#### DEVICE OF THE GERMAN EAGLE.

The *German Correspondent* (official paper of the government) says the form of the Imperial German Eagle, as it is henceforth to figure in the arms of the Empire, and on stamps and official seals, has been determined by the Federal Council. It is to be the heraldic eagle with the head turned to the right, above which the Imperial crown will appear to hover. The shield on the eagle's breast will display the heraldic Prussian eagle, each wing containing six broad and five narrow feathers; the claws will be without the insignia they usually seem to grasp, and the tail in heraldic delineation.

## THE LIVERPOOL (ENGLAND) NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Liverpool Numismatic Society was held on Tuesday, July 4, 1871, in the small lecture room of the Free Library, William Brown street, the President, Mr. H. Chapman, in the chair. A donation of coins from the Honorary Secretary, and sundry numismatic works from Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith, were acknowledged. The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, of Boston, U. S., presented the Society with his valuable work on "The Vermont Coinage," 1870. The following were exhibited—By the President: crown, Gothic crown, half-crown, graceless florin, florin, shilling, sixpence, great and maundy, fourpence, threepence, twopence, and a penny in silver of Victoria; penny, half-penny, farthing, half-farthing, and third of a farthing in bronze, all of Victoria. By Mr. Charles Lionel Reis: A silver medal of Charles II, William III of Holland, and of George, Prince Regent, commemorating the peace signed between England and France, May, 1814; two bronze medals of Napoleon Bonaparte, of Daniel Wray, and of the Spanish Regent. By Mr. E. Bowker: A fine medallion of George Washington, and one quarter farthing of Queen Victoria, 1839. By Mr. David T. Stewart: First brass of Antoninus Pius; obverse, "ANTONINVS PIVS P. P. T. R. P. COS. III.;" head of Antoninus to right; laureate; reverse, "DIVA FAUSTINA;" head of Faustina to right; also, a denarius of the Emperor Trajan, A. D. 53-117. Obverse, "IMP. TRAIANO AVG. GER. DAC. PM. TRP. COS. VII.;" head of Trajan to right; laureate; reverse, S. P. Q. R. OPTIMO PRINCIPI; a figure with cornucopia, &c., standing; and further, a denarius of the Empress Faustina Senior (A. D. 159), struck after her death. Obverse, "DIVA FAUSTINA;" head of Faustina to right. Reverse, AVGVSTA; a female figure standing. The Secretary, Mr. Charles Lionel Reis, read a very interesting paper on the Anglo-American coins, treating briefly upon the Rosa Americana and the other most interesting coins of our transatlantic colonies, not forgetting to remind the Society of its being the anniversary of the American Independence, which induced him to enter upon such a theme. Mr. H. F. Brown was also fortunate in his subject. He exhibited a very rare medal of Henry IX, 1788. He was the grandson of James II, and a brother to the young Pretender, whose romantic endeavors to recover the throne of his ancestors are interesting matters of history. When the last grand effort for the restoration of his family failed, he took holy orders, in 1747, and Pope Benedict XIV raised him to the purple. Soon after the dethronement and expulsion of Pius VI, by Bonaparte, in 1798, the Cardinal fled from Rome to Venice—seventy-five years old, infirm in health, and poor. He lived for a time on the produce of some silver plate which he had rescued from the ruins of his prosperity. His situation at length became so deplorable that George III gave orders that a present of £2000 should be sent him with an intimation that an annuity of £4000 should be at his service as long as he should need it. This liberality was accepted by the Cardinal in terms of gratitude, and he continued to receive it till his death, at the age of eighty-two, in 1805. With him the direct

line of the Stuart family terminated. The valuable library known as the Stuart Papers were left by the Cardinal to the King. A very pleasant meeting was closed by a vote of thanks to all contributors.

### THE SIGNERS IN RHYME.

BY REV. J. H. DUBBS.

It will not be denied that the men who, on the Fourth of July, 1776, pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" in behalf of our national liberty, deserve the most profound reverence from every American citizen. The writer, having frequently experienced the advantage of verse as an aid to the memory, has attempted the task of metrically arranging the names of the Signers, according to the colonies from which they were delegated, in the hope that his rhymes will assist the youthful learner in remembering the names of these Fathers of American Independence.

The MASSACHUSETTS delegation,  
That signed our glorious Declaration,  
Were Hancock, Gerry, Robert Paine,  
The great John Adams, and again  
Another Adams, Samuel by name.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, called the "Granite State,"  
Sent Whipple, Bartlett, Thornton, great  
Alike in counsel and debate.

RHODE ISLAND's delegates, we see,  
Were Stephen Hopkins and Ellery.

CONNECTICUT, excelled by none,  
Sent Roger Sherman, her noblest son,  
With Wolcott, Williams and Huntington.

NEW YORK as delegates employed  
Lewis Morris and William Floyd,  
With Francis Lewis, and Livingston  
Who died before the war was done.

NEW JERSEY to the Congress sent  
Her honored College President,  
John Witherspoon; with Stockton, Clark,  
Hart, Hopkinson—all men of mark.

Though PENNSYLVANIA need not blush  
For Morris, Morton, Wilson, Rush,  
And though most men might seem as dross  
To Clymer, Taylor, Smith, and Ross;  
To Franklin each his tribute brings,  
Who neither lightnings feared, nor kings.

The men from DELAWARE—indeed,  
As true as steel. in utmost need—  
Were Rodney, with McKean, and Read.

"My MARYLAND" is proud to own  
Her Carroll, Paca, Chase and Stone.

On old VIRGINIA's roll, we see  
 The gifted Richard Henry Lee ;  
 And, just as earnest to be free,  
 His brother, Francis Lightfoot Lee ;  
 And Wythe and Nelson, patriots true,  
 With Harrison and Braxton, too ;  
 But, of them all, there was not one  
 As great as Thomas Jefferson.

NORTH CAROLINA's chosen men,  
 We know, were Hooper, Hewes, and Penn ;

And SOUTH CAROLINA's vote was won  
 By Rutledge, Heyward, Middleton,  
 And Lynch, whose race was soonest run.

From GEORGIA came Gwinnett, and Hall,  
 And Walton, too, the last of all—  
 Who signed our precious Declaration—  
 The pride and glory of the Nation.

From Lippincott's Monthly Magazine.

#### AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF FRANKLIN.

The following letter, we feel sure, was never before published. In 1865, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution received it from some one in England, who asked in return for it a ten dollar greenback bearing the portrait of Mr. Lincoln. Professor Henry at once sent the Treasury note, and gave the letter to Rear Admiral Harwood, a descendant of Franklin. Hartley and Franklin were warm personal friends :

PASSY, SEPT. 8, 1783.

MY DEAR FRIEND—I wrote to you, this morning, enclosing three letters for friends in England. If you have not yet started, I know that you will be gratified to hear that His Majesty's ultimate instructions, of which I have been in possession some days—but until just now as a secret—are most favorable for peace. The fourth article reads : "In case you find the American commissioners are not at liberty to treat on any terms short of independence, you are to declare to them you have authority to make that concession." To so sincere a lover of mankind this to you will be indeed gratifying news.

With esteem and affection, I am, my dear friend, ever yours,

B. FRANKLIN.

DAVID HARTLEY, Esq., M. P.

We regret to destroy so pleasant a memento as the above ; but, in justice to the truths of history, we pronounce the above letter a forgery, one of the numerous offspring of Robert Spring, alias Emma Hardinge, alias Dr. Hawley. Any person familiar with Benjamin Franklin's style of correspondence will observe the difference in the composition of letters of the style of 1783 and the more modern style of 1865. We are particularly grieved to think that Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, should be so careless with his ten dollar greenbacks. The "Lincoln portrait" was the sugar coat for the forger's pill and was greedily swallowed.

## WASHINGTON'S INITIATION.

The following concerning the initiation of the Father of his Country in Masonry is from the records of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, F. and A. M., of Fredericksburg, Va., and will no doubt be interesting to our readers.

"5752. November 6. Received from Mr. George Washington, for his entrance, £2 3d."

"5752. 3d March, George Washington passed Fellow Craft.

Eleven visiting brothers from other Lodges were in attendance.

"5753. 4th August, which day the Lodge being assembled—present: R. W. Daniel Campbell; J. Neilson, S. W.; Ro. Halkerson, J. W.; George Washington, James Stracan, Alexander Woodson, Sec. *pro tem.*; Thomas Robertson, Wm. McWilliams, Treasurer. Transactions of the evening are:

George Washington, raised Master Mason; Thomas James, entered an Apprentice."

The Bible of this old and venerable Lodge, on which George Washington was covenanted, was, during the invasion of the State during the late war, nearly destroyed. The hall was visited by men in the garb of soldiers, the properties of the Lodges scattered, and the Bible torn nearly to pieces. Scrap by scrap the same was recovered, taken to Richmond and there received the careful attention of a Masonic bookbinder, who restored it somewhat to its original shape; and thus has a Masonic relic, valuable to the American people, whether Masons or otherwise, been placed in an exhibitable shape to such as make a visit to Fredericksburg Lodge, their Masonic Mecca.

## REVIEWS.

The *American Journal of Numismatics*, for July, received. This number of the quarterly presents an attractive appearance, and contains a variety of selected articles of interest. Our worthy cotemporary has unwittingly committed an orthographical error in the description of the Kittanning medal, terming it the *Kittining* medal. W. S. Appleton contributes an interesting article to the present number, entitled "Medals of Lafayette," giving twenty-eight varieties of the same.

We quote the following from the *Boston Journal of Numismatics*, which originally appeared in the *Boston Daily Journal*, of September 23, 1864:

## MEMORIAL COINS.

It will be recollected that at the time of the burning of the Winthrop House and Masonic Hall, the Freemasons lost many of their gold and silver jewels. In looking over the ruins a considerable amount of silver was found, the jewels having been melted and run together. The silver was sent to the United States Mint and a number of half dollar pieces coined from it, which have been sold to the members of the different Lodges, Encampments, etc., for one dollar each. These, we are informed, are the only fifty cent pieces coined this year.—*Boston Journal of September 23, 1864.*

The above is an astonishing piece of intelligence, and, if true, the

Masonic hall, at Boston, must have contained tons of silver jewels, as there were coined at the United States mint, in 1864, 319,970 silver half dollars, and at the San Francisco mint, 648,000 making, a total of 967,970 half dollars coined in the year 1864.

*Brown's Curiosity Cabinet* for July received. The only matter it contains of interest (to Brown) is the extraordinary purchase of sixteen thousand foreign coins, of Mr. King, of London, for seven hundred dollars. If Brown succeeds in getting his money out of that half bushel of rubbish we should be pleased to note the fact. We notice the brass card (English) "New Yorke in America," advertised for sale at twenty-five dollars. How's that for elevation?

#### FOREIGN CURIOSITIES.

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM.**—During 1861 there were 427,247 persons who visited the British Museum, to view the general collections. The museum was open, from six to eight o'clock, on Monday and Saturday evenings, during the summer months, and 2228 visitors were admitted on those evenings. The visitors to the reading rooms numbered 98,971, averaging 338 daily, and each reader, upon an average, consulted thirteen volumes daily. Among the curiosities added to the museum are the eggs of an extinct bird of Madagascar, discovered in the fluviatile deposits of that island. The larger of these eggs has a circumference of 36 inches in the long and 30 inches in the short axis. In the map department there have been received from Florence, photograph copies of the oldest series of maps in existence, bearing date 1351, throwing great light on the history of mediæval discoveries in geography.

**LONDON** *Once a Week* says that "Under the auspices of the late librarian, the reading room of the British Museum was made, in its new shape, one of the finest places for students in the world. Before the present magnificent building was erected, a certain old lady—who still frequents the new room—had the privilege of supplying coffee to such of the readers as might require it. Just about the time when the present edifice was out of the hands of the builders our hitherto privileged dame was invited to see the grand architectural novelty. 'Yes, yes,' she said, 'it is very fine, very fine, indeed. But where is the place for my fire and coffee pot?' She could not see the improvement."

**A PARIS HATTER**, whose stock was riddled with bullets during the siege, now sells the damaged hats at fabulous prices as souvenirs of the war.

#### REDEMPTION OF BASE METAL COINS.

The amount of base metal coins redeemed to date is about two hundred thousand dollars. The redemption is going on steadily at the rate of three thousand dollars daily, and, notwithstanding the prediction of the director of the Philadelphia Mint, the people prefer fractional currency to the accumulation of nickel coin.



## EXCAVATION OF ROMAN COINS, ETC.

Several of our readers may be unaware that, by order of Pius IX, last year, important excavations were made in various districts of the Roman territory, and especially at Ostia. The laborers employed in the work were galley slaves, under the supervision of Commandant Visconti and the *surveillance* of the galley guards. Now, it will not be uninteresting to enumerate some of the compensations allowed by the directors of the pontifical museums to those criminals condemned to compulsory labor. They had, in the first place, a daily compensation of five baiocchi; besides that, whoever found a bronze coin received a reward of one cent; five cents were given for each silver coin and fifteen cents for each gold coin. The galley slave who was so extremely lucky as to dig up a cameo or an engraven cornelian received five paoli (about half a dollar). He who found a statue, if he succeeded in exhuming it without injuring it, was rewarded with a scudo (one dollar). A monsignor affirmed, some years ago, in Rome, that there has never been an instance of a galley slave appropriating any of the relics which were the objects of their researches. More than that, not a few, at the expiration of their term of punishment, have craved permission to remain on the works on the same footing as the rest—galley slaves from choice! Who would ever have believed it?

## RARE COINS.

We recently had the pleasure of examining a collection of old and rare coins, made up by William P. Coolbaugh, which has been pronounced by those versed in numismatics to be one of the most complete in the State. It embraces a large number of uncirculated pieces, including the Massachusetts cents and half cents, the Kentucky cent and the Wood penny, the Granby or Higley copper, the Pine Tree shilling, sixpence and threepence, several other rare and valuable colonial pieces, a number of proof American pieces, besides a number of very fine American cents previous to 1820. Many of these, from their scarcity, command high prices, some of the cents selling for twenty dollars. One of the most valuable coins in the collection is an American silver quarter of 1823, which is very difficult to obtain. Altogether the collection is well worth examining.—*Grand Rapids Paper.*

## FORTHCOMING COIN SALE.

A sale of valuable American and foreign silver and copper coins will take place, September 5 and 6, at the Book Trade Sales Rooms of George A. Leavitt & Co., Astor Place, New York.

## BACK NUMBERS WANTED.

Twenty-five cents each will be paid for the following numbers of this magazine: April, 1867; October and December, 1868; January, May and June, 1869; January and February, 1870; January, 1871.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

**VICTORIA.**—Another stamp may now be added to the list—already too long—of so-called “provisional” stamps, which often linger long enough to acquire the right to be considered as fixtures. This latest arrival is the current ten penny of Victoria, transformed into a nine pence. The change is effected by surcharging the necessary word across the lower margin of the stamp, and by obliterating, with the figure 9, the numeral which has hitherto done duty on each side of the oval as an indication of the value. The added inscription and figures are in deep blue ink; the color of the stamp itself is unchanged. Our copy bears the old water-mark—the figures 10.

**HUNGARY.**—The post card turns out to have been but the forerunner of a series of adhesives and envelopes for the kingdom. The type is the same as post card. The values and colors, for both envelopes and adhesives, we understand, are to be the same as those of the Austrian series, and the stamps will be issued, value after value, as the existing stock is used up. The only one at present in use is the 5 kr., reddish rose, which has been seen obliterated. It is not a very brilliant nor artistic design, but perhaps the entire series may have a good effect. In addition to these adhesives there is also a newspaper stamp of a different design—a stamp like the current Austrian Mercury, without inscription or indication of value. The design consists of the Hungarian crown (we *believe*, but, borrowing a phrase from the Tichborne case, “it would not surprise us” to learn it is some other crown), and below it is a post horn; the whole is in an uncolored circle. The rectangle is completed by a slightly ornamented marginal frame, and lined spandrels. It is printed in red, and the execution is very poor.

**FRANCE.**—The half sheet of one hundred and fifty of the 20 c., head of Liberty, perforated, contains no fewer than three reversed stamps. The following are their positions:

Tenth row down, second stamp from left.

Eleventh row down, right hand stamp.

Last row down, third stamp from right.

These errors no doubt occurred in making up the plate for the new emission. The unperforated stamps are now getting scarcer, the 10 and 20 c. being the only ones which are at all freely used. In many places the laureated one centime of the empire has been brought back into currency. M. Moens notices a 40 c. imperforate very pale yellow. He has also been informed, by one of his correspondents, that proofs exist in Paris of the head of Liberty (engraved) stamps, on which the inscription *COMMUNE DE PARIS* has taken the place of the old *REPUB. FRANC.* It is not at all unlikely that the commune intended issuing stamps, seeing that at one period of the siege its

officers entered the tobacco shops, and pounced on all the stamps they could find, the stock at the post offices being even then so short.

**RUSSIA.**—*Novgorod.*—We have a new stamp for the district of Novgorod. It represents the value of 5 kopecs, and is printed black on rose.

**LIVONIA.**—The once doubted stamp, bearing a griffin in oval, has at length given place to the stamp which may be described as the same design, *without* the griffin in oval, in this particular greatly resembling the first rectangular stamp issued. Like its predecessor, it has the centre green and the frame red or carmine.

**PORTUGAL.**—Of the new issue there are now in existence the

5 reis, black.	50 reis, green.
10 reis, yellow.	100 reis, pale lilac.
20 reis, bistre.	

**AZORES.**—The new series for the mother country is at present represented in these islands by four values—

5 reis, black, surcharge red.      25 reis, rose, surcharge black.

10 reis, yellow, surcharge black.      50 reis, green, surcharge black.

**JAMAICA.**—Specimens of the three pence, pale green, and six pence, mauve, have appeared, according to our Belgian contemporary, with cc and crown watermark, instead of the old familiar pineapple.

**TASMANIA.**—Two more values of the new type have been issued—

Three pence, reddish brown.      Five shillings, bright violet.

These are watermarked with the letters **TAS** running diagonally from left to right.

**SWITZERLAND.**—Newspaper wrappers bearing impressed stamps have just been issued for the Helvetic Republic; only two values are as yet in circulation, viz.:

2 centimes, rose.

5 centimes, rose.

But others will be issued if the public are found to appreciate the system. The paper makers and stationers have no cause of complaint, inasmuch as these bands are issued at prices above their facial value, according to their size, to cover the cost of paper. The design is formed of the figure of value, with a cross above, and **CENTIMES** on a label below, surrounded by a wreath.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**—The handsome one cent adhesive has been superseded by another stamp formed from it and almost identical in design, colored a kind of brownish violet. The portrait is *probably* the same, but the background has certainly been remade, and the pointed oval frame has also been recut. The inscriptions and notably the letters **N. F.** are smaller, and there are differences in the disposition of the foliage easily observable on comparison.

**SPAIN.**—The new series of stamps may be expected to see the light very shortly, and, according to our Spanish contemporary, *El Averiguador*, the first values to appear will be the 6, 10, 12, 25, 40 and 50 centimos de pesta. The colors are not yet known, but it is certain the stamps will bear the king's portrait, the face turned slightly towards the left. The 1, 4 and 10 pesta will be from a different die

from the others, and the 1, 2 and 5 centimos de pesta alone will bear a numeral; of these latter, only the lowest value will appear on July 1, and even that may be delayed.

The *Averiguador*, criticising the description given of the forthcoming issue in *Le Trimbre-Poste* (and quoted by us), says there is no doubt that the editor of the Belgian paper has seen proofs of a rejected design, and has been deceived by his correspondent into believing them to be of the adopted type. The Spanish paper, however, believes that M. Moens, whilst acknowledging, will not regret his error, on learning that the accepted design is even finer than the one of which he has spoken so highly.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

### UNITED STATES CIGAR STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

USED IN 1864.

Size  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide.

Coarse lathe work, with inscription in rect, space in centre. All alike except in color, and inscribed "United States Internal Revenue Cigar Stamp."

\$3 per thousand, black.

\$3 per thousand, green.

\$8 per thousand, black.

\$15 per thousand, black.

\$25 per thousand, yellow.

\$40 per thousand, blue.

Size  $15\frac{1}{4}$  inches long by 1 inch wide.

Lithographed, with plantation scene on each side of inscription. Inscribed "U. S. Internal Revenue Cigar Stamp." All alike except in color.

\$3 per thousand, blue.

\$8 per thousand, green.

\$15 per thousand, black.

\$25 per thousand, yellow.

\$40 per thousand, vermillion.

USED IN 1865 AND 1866.

Lithographed, number of cigars on right and blank space for inspector's name on left. Months of the year above and numbers from 1 to 31 below. "Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, 1865," and some 1866.

25 cigars, black; 9 inches by 1 inch.

50 cigars, black, two portraits of Lincoln; 12 inches by  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

100 cigars, black, two portraits of Lincoln; 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

500 cigars, green, two portraits of Lincoln; 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches.

USED IN 1867 AND 1868.

Fine lathe work, blank spaces for inspector's name, date, district and state.

25 cigars, U. S. Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, green; 9 inches by 1 inch.

50 cigars, United States Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp, blue; 12 inches by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

100 cigars, U. S. Internal Revenue Inspector's Stamp; portraits of Washington; brown; 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

250 cigars, Internal Revenue Inspectors U. S. Stamps; portraits of Washington; black; 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*(To be continued.)*

### THE NEW ADHESIVE STAMPS.

Joseph R. Carpenter, of Philadelphia, has forwarded to the Internal Revenue Bureau specimens of the new series of adhesive stamps, which are regarded as excelling in design and finish anything of the kind ever furnished the government. While there is a general uniformity preserved for the classes of each stamp, no one can be used for the other by alteration of the denomination. The vignette on each class is the head of Washington printed in soluble ink, and having all the appearance of steel plate printing, while the framework or border is printed in permanent ink of blue and green. The highest denomination of the present series is two hundred dollars. In the new series there will be a stamp of the denomination of five thousand dollars, designed to accommodate railroad, banking and insurance companies. The vignette, where the cancellation marks are to be written or printed, will disappear on the slightest application of acid, so that the re-use of stamps by washing off the cancellation, which is now a common occurrence, will be prevented. The use of tinted chameleon paper on which they are to be printed will afford additional security against their reissue.

### NEW INTERNATIONAL POSTAL TREATY.

The postal treaty concerning the international exchange of postal money orders between Great Britain and the United States has just been concluded in London by Dr. McDonald, as agent for the United States, and has been received by the Post Office Department. The treaty is signed by the British authorities, and only awaits the signature of the President of the United States. Under its provisions money orders of \$50 or less of American currency or £10 sterling or less may be obtained in England, Ireland and Scotland, and in the post offices of the United States. The treaty goes into effect on the first day of October next, and will prove a vast convenience to both American citizens and British subjects.

### FOREIGN MONEY ORDERS.

The Post Office Department has received letters from Superintendent Macdonald, who is in London, arranging a money order system between the United States and Great Britain. He expresses the expectation of satisfactorily concluding the business in a few days, when he would leave for Berlin to arrange a similar service with the German Empire.

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. 5.

SEPTEMBER, 1871.

No. 9.

### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

(Concluded.)

**The Turquoise.** The name of this gem is supposed to be derived from Turkey, the country whose merchants first brought it into the Western markets. Persia seems to have been the country where it was earliest found. But it has since been discovered in Khorassan, Bucharia and the Syrian Desert. Its lustre is dull or waxy and its colors are variously sky-blue, greenish-blue, occasionally apple-green and sometimes yellowish. This, the genuine or Oriental Turquoise. It is found on small gangs of bog-ore, in silicious shiste, in boulders, etc.

There is another stone called Turquoise—generally Occidental Turquoise—which Professor Nicol treats as rather an imitation than a genuine Turquoise. It is supposed to consist of fossil antediluvian teeth, covered by hydrated copper-oxide or phosphate of iron. The principal localities of this are certain portions of Siberia and France. Its color is light blue, dark blue, or bluish green. It is easily distinguished from the Oriental species by being internally foliated and streaked—a fact indicating a bony composition—and by its not taking so high a polish. The blue specimens often turn pale or green with age, but their color may frequently be restored by scraping them and putting them in hot ashes and then subjecting them to a new polish. MM. Duhamel and Guettard proved many years ago that the bones of animals could be colored by making them eat madder.

The Oriental Turquoise takes a high polish and is so highly valued in the East, as an ornamental stone, that the Persian Shah retains the best specimens for his own use.

Both kinds are used for numerous purposes in jewelry, such as for rings, brooches, etc., as also for mounting other precious gems.

The price of the Turquoise has greatly fallen within the last ten years. The Oriental is generally four times higher than that of the Occidental, one of pea size being worth about five dollars.

## AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.  
(Concluded.)*

I have thus far considered for the most part the outer life of Mr. Peale, by which he became known to the public at large, but I cannot conclude without some reference to his inner life as it was disclosed to his more intimate friends. These, while they admired his varied knowledge, saw upon a close inspection other traits which made still more excellent the character of the man. Of these I may mention his gentleness and loving tenderness to all, but especially to the young. With children he was a universal favorite. He never wearied in contributing to their amusement or instruction. And this was no light burden on his time, for a toy from Mr. Peale was not such as comes from the shops, but all he accomplished, from a kite to a complicated engine, was beautiful in form and finish. On occasions, and especially if a charitable object were to be promoted, he would don the costume of an Eastern juggler, and astonish the young, and even children of a larger growth, with apparently miraculous feats, for which he had constructed apparatus of his own. Even to the brute creation the same tender nature was exhibited. A scientific friend recalls even now the self restraint with which, when a youth, ardent in the search for entomological specimens, he spared a water spider, of rare species, that had shown a touching instinct in the protection of its young. He was always most ready in imparting information to inquirers whom his happy faculty and clearness in explanation gathered around him. An enthusiastic lover and explorer of nature, it was in the fields and woods that he became perhaps most interesting. He was familiar with the names and habits of plants, animals and insects, and mineralogy and geology, and from the fullness of his knowledge dispensed liberally.

A marked characteristic of Mr. Peale was his untiring energy. He was never idle, always laboring on some systematic plan. Even his recreations were methodically arranged, and a part of the means by which his body and mind were invigorated for work. And with him there were no *small* duties. Each one was sacred. No temptation or pleasure could induce him to forego a responsibility. A promise was its performance. Punctuality was a prominent virtue, any infringement on which he regarded as wasting another's time.

Finally, Mr. Peale was a reverential, humble, Christian man. A faith better than philosophy sustained him in the losing hour, and he went calmly to his rest murmuring "The Lord is my Shepherd," like unto a little child trusting to a parent's promise. His dying words, distinctly and clearly uttered, were: "If this is death, it is as I wished, perfect peace, perfect comfort, perfect joy."

The vigorous constitution of Mr. Peale carried him in robust health to a term some years beyond that allotted to man by the Psalmist. For months before his death, however, he was observed to be failing, a fact of which he was himself fully conscious, speak-

ing to his friends with perfect composure of his approaching end. He was nevertheless able, almost to the last, to attend to his accustomed duties, and his closing illness was but a brief one. He died at his residence, 1131 Girard street, on the 5th of May, 1870, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

#### THE TREASURE OF TARSUS.

The famous collection of jewels and gold medallions, known as the "Treasure of Tarsus," was purchased by the French Emperor (at an expense of ten thousand dollars) and presented, in his name, to the Imperial Library of Paris. Originally found by an Armenian, in the neighborhood of Tarsus, in Asia Minor, it comprises four magnificent gold medallions, some very remarkable jewels and twenty-three smaller gold pieces. Three of the gold medallions bear, in Greek, the name of Alexander the Great, and were struck in commemoration of that prince, in a town of Asia Minor, about the time of Caracalla, and probably by his orders. On one of the two representing on the reverse Alexander or Caracalla, on horseback, hunting a lion, the head is Alexander's; while on the other it is Hercules, still a youth, clothed with the lion's skin.

The certainty of Alexander's portrait may be affirmed by the quantity of bronze medals of him struck in Macedonia, from the time of Caracalla to that of Volusianus, among which a head, exactly similar, bears the name of Alexander, which head likewise corresponds to the one which Lysimachus, the general and successor of Alexander the Great, placed upon his coins.

As for the medallion showing the head of Hercules, we must remember that this demi-god was held in special veneration by the Greeks, and greatly honored by the king in question. It is in this character that we find him constantly represented during his lifetime, at which epoch kings had not yet the right to put their own likenesses on coins.

Caracalla was ambitious of walking in the footsteps of that illustrious conqueror, who was the hero of his predilection.

The third great medallion shows a portrait which, if it is not a portrait of Caracalla himself, presents, at least, the most striking resemblance to the one observed on all the medals of this emperor struck in his maturer years.

The fourth medallion is of Roman workmanship, and was struck in the year of our Lord 230, according to the inscription, "Imperator Severus Alexander Augustus, Pontifex Maximus, Tribunicia Potestate VIII, Consul III, Pater Patriæ." The ninth tribunician power of Alexander Severus being likewise the ninth year of his reign, it was consequently A. D. 230.

The first medallion weighs  $110\frac{1}{2}$  grammes; the second weighs 100 grammes; the third weighs 94 grammes; the fourth weighs 51.10 grammes.

Besides their exceeding rarity, the discovery of these large medal-



lions is a subject of great interest to the learned world, and proves conclusively to our *savants* that those branches of art were, at one time, as successfully prosecuted and as well understood by the ancient Greeks as ever they were at any subsequent period by the Romans.

The "Treasure of Tarsus," then, is one of the finest numismatic discoveries that has ever been made. whether we regard beauty of design and workmanship, or its perfect state of preservation, and will long be remembered as one of the richest ornaments in the medal cabinet of the *Bibliothèque Imperiale*.

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

72. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose and bud, 7 leaves, 1 thistle, 2 shamrocks, 1 large leaf and 1 head wheat to right; 1 rose, 2 buds, 1 thistle with 2 leaves (one of which turns over the centre), 2 shamrocks, 2 heads wheat with small blades, to left; large open and slender bow and 1 ribbon to left and 1 curved ribbon to right. " \* TRADE & AGRICULTURE \* LOWER CANADA." Rev.—Wreath composed of 21 laurel leaves to left, and 27 long slender leaves to right, bound by a double bow to right and left, 2 short ribbons below. In centre of wreath "UN SOU." Inscription, "BANK OF MONTREAL TOKEN." Edge plain.

73. C. Obv.—Same as No. 72, but no asterisks before or after inscription. Rev.—Wreath of 20 laurel leaves, to left, and 30 leaves as in No. 72, to right, connected by a double bow. Stems of wreath touch letters "N" and "E" in Montreal. "UN SOUS," in the centre. "BANK TOKEN MONTREAL." Edge milled.

74. C. Obv.—Same as No. 73. Rev.—Similar wreath to No. 73, but having 21 leaves to left and 25 to right; double bow. Stems of wreath do not extend so far downwards and are much lighter. "BANK OF MONTREAL TOKEN."

75. C. Obv.—Bouquet. Large maple leaf, thistle, 1 bunch of 4 and 1 single blade wheat, and 1 head of wheat, bent downwards towards thistle, to right; 1 rose and bud, 4 leaves, 3 leaved sprig of shamrock, 2 blades and 1 head of wheat inclined downwards to left; large open bow and ribbon to right and left. " \* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS-CANADA." Rev.—Wreath of 5 maple leaves, 2 on right, and left turned upwards, that on top inclined downwards to left; in centre, "UN SOU." Outside of wreath, to right, a small head wearing a Swiss liberty cap; to left, a large five pointed star. "BANQUE DU PEUPLE MONTREAL." Milled edge. Scarce. This token is what is commonly known as the *Rebellion* token. It is supposed to have been issued in 1837, the Liberty cap and star having reference to the struggle then going on. Scarce in good condition.

76. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistles, 3 shamrocks, 1 blade and 1 head

of wheat, 3 leaves as in No. 39, to left; on top, 3 blades wheat; open slender bow to left, 1 ribbon to right. Same inscription as in No. 48. Rev.—Same as No. 39. A specimen of this coin in possession of Mr. E. Groh, of New York, is struck in German silver.

77. C. Obv.—Bouquet. Rose, thistle, shamrock and head of wheat, to right and left. “\* TRADE & AGRICULTURE \* LOWER CANADA.” Between the inscription are 2 large five-pointed stars. Rev.—Wreath composed of 11 laurel leaves and 4 sprigs, to left; and 15 long slender leaves, as in No. 72, to right. Wreath bound by 2 very large open bows, twisted like a rope to right and left, with two ends hanging downwards over front of wreath. In centre of wreath, “ $\frac{1}{2}$  PENNY.” Inscription, “BANK TOKEN MONTREAL.” Edge plain. Very rare.

(To be continued.)

### HOBBIES.

BY E. M., JR.

“*Button! button! who's got the button?*”

The games in which we were wont to indulge in childhood are vividly brought to mind at times by the most trivial occurrences. A scene which once took place, between two prominent autograph collectors, often calls up the recollection of that old, but amusing household game of “*Button! button! who's got the button?*”

During the civil war, and about the time of the battles in Virginia, Fairfax Court House was frequently between two fires; but more frequently under two governments. The Union troops would scarcely pitch their tents in Fairfax ere the Confederates would make a charge and oust them, and the latter, in turn, flee before the approaching Unionists, until this ancient but interesting town was reduced to a village of ruins. The court house in Fairfax had in its keeping many interesting papers connected with the Revolutionary struggle of our forefathers, and during the civil strife of the late rebellion, lovers of the curious, and mischief-seeking desperadoes, eyed the building containing the sacred treasures with longing, wistful glances in hopes that an opportunity would offer to explore its dusty rooms, and secure such prizes as rumor asserted were to be found among its musty documents. In time, the court house was broken into, and many papers, letters, etc., seized and distributed. In time, also, came a regiment of Pennsylvania cavalry, one company of which was commanded by a clever Philadelphian, a whole-souled gentleman and a lover of autographs, coins, etc, whom we will call H., for the very best of reasons—that being the first letter of his surname. Captain H. posted his men near the court house, with instructions to protect the property, and was horrified at the vandalism exhibited by the attack upon the court house. He gazed upon torn scraps of valuable letters, and saw, here and there upon the ground, leaves of old and rare books converted into the most disreputable uses.

While ruminating upon these sad acts of an ungoverned and undis-

ciplined rabble, he was approached by a subordinate officer, whose love of autographs equalled his own, who asked permission to search the court house for relics, when the following conversation occurred:

*Capt. H.*—"Sergeant, you are too much of a gentleman, I trust, to enter that building for the purpose of purloining any article dear to the State of Virginia."

*Sergt.*—"Oh, for that matter, it is all honorable in war—only the spoils, you know."

*Capt. H.*—"But these 'spoils' are 'private property.'"

*Sergt.*—"Private property, indeed! Who is the owner?"

*Capt. H.*—"The good old State of Virginia."

*Sergt.*—"Good old State; come, Cap, that's a good 'un."

*Capt. H.*—(Interrupting).—"If you want to join Moseby, Sergeant, he's not far away—only over to Warrenton—I'll give you a recommendation."

*Sergt.*—"Come, now, Cap, don't be so personal. The State of Virginia is out of the Union—has seceded—is at war with us, and an enemy."

*Capt. H.*—"I know all that, and yet, while I command, that building and all it contains shall be held sacred. There are no war implements there; no enemy—nothing but a few old musty books and documents, left by a rabble of plunderers who have despoiled papers that can never be restored. If I had my will and way, I would hang every one of them, whether friend or foe."

*Sergt.*—"Come, Cap, don't be hard on a fellow soldier. I heard there was a 'Button' left there on the floor, and my collection would be complete if I could get that 'Button.'"

*Capt. H.*—"Oh, if that is all you want, I can accommodate you, as I have a small collection in my trunk at the tent. What particular button do you wish?"

*Sergt.*—"A Georgia 'Button.'"

*Capt. H.*—"I have the very thing you want."

Together the two soldier friends proceed to the tent, and after a close examination the Captain produces a Georgia State brass button and politely offers it to his companion in arms.

*Sergt.*—"Pshaw! Cap, I don't want that kind of a button, I don't collect such foolish things as buttons."

*Capt. H.*—(Interrupting).—"I do, I've got a North and a South Carolina, a Tennessee, an Alabama, a—"

*Sergt.*—"Hold on, hold on, for mercy's sake! my sister at home has a string of that nonsense, longer than any you can name in an hour, and she's only ten years of age. I want a Gwinnet."

*Capt. H.*—"Oh! ah! I see, I see. A 'Button Gwinnet;' a paper, instead of a brass button."

It is perhaps superfluous to add that the two friends enjoyed this little affair hugely. The story spread and during the balance of the campaign the privates frequently enjoyed their little joke by crying out, "Button! button! who's got the button?"

## PACIFIC RAILWAY MEDAL.

The United States Mint has issued the following circular :

"Twenty-one years ago, on the 23d of June, 1848, Ex-Gov. James Pollock, now Director of the Mint, then a member of Congress from Pennsylvania, as chairman of a special committee made a report to the House in favor of the construction of a railroad across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. The report will be found in the 3d volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives for the 1st session of the 30th Congress, No. 733. This was the *first favorable official act* on this subject on the part of the Congress of the United States.

The report discusses the question in its international and domestic aspects, its feasibility and probable results, but only the opening sentences can be quoted here :

"The proposition at first view is a startling one. The magnitude of the work itself, and the still greater and more magnificent results promised by its accomplishments—that of revolutionizing morally and commercially, if not politically, a greater part of the habitable globe, and making the vast commerce of the world tributary to us—almost overwhelm the mind. But your committee, on examination, find it a subject as simple as it is vast and magnificent, and see no insurmountable difficulties in the way of its successful accomplishment."

A bill accompanied the report, and was referred to the Committee of the Whole, but no further action was taken on it at the time, and Mr. Pollock soon after left Congress. In the fall of 1848, however, he delivered a lecture on the Pacific Railroad, by invitation, to a crowded house, at Lewisburg, Union county, Pa., closing with the following remark :

"At the risk of being considered insane, I will venture the prediction, that in less than twenty-five years from this evening, a railroad will be completed and in operation between New York and San Francisco, California; that a line of steamships will be established between San Francisco, Japan and China; and there are now in my audience ladies who will, before the expiration of the period named, drink tea brought from China and Japan, by this route, to their own doors!"

This prophetic announcement was received by the audience with a smile of good-natured incredulity; but some of those very ladies, during the present year, 1869, have been able to sip their favorite beverage in exact accordance with the terms of the speaker's prediction!

On the 10th of May, 1869, the last rail was laid, the last spike driven, and the great Pacific Railway, so long in embryo, became an accomplished fact! It had encountered numberless difficulties, the unknown condition of the country through which it must pass, and the sectional rivalries in Congress as to the proper route, being the most formidable. But attempted secession, which seemed at first destructive of every national interest, was really favorable in this regard, in permitting, for the first time, definite and adequate legislation; on the basis of which, incorporated private citizens, few in

number, but possessed of energy, sagacity and courage equal to the continental proportions of the enterprise, boldly pushed out from both oceans into the wilderness of mountain and desert; and, before the republic had yet ceased to reel under the shock of Titanic civil war, demonstrated its inevitable triumph over all opposing obstacles. And parallel with the assurance of enduring peace, under the Presidency of the great leader whose superb generalship and invincible determination had crushed rebellion and saved our nationality, the problem received its final solution in absolute success.

The idea immediately presented itself of striking a medal in commemoration of this stupendous achievement; and the Director, in consultation with William Barber, Esq., Engraver of the Mint, determined the general plan and features of the work. The result is a medal,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter, giving on one side an ideal representation, in miniature, of a cross section of the continent, in the latitude of the road. A glimpse is given of both oceans, with the vast plains, lofty ranges of mountains and precipitous canons; and in the foreground, the pioneer locomotive and train of cars emerging from a mountain gorge, and heading bravely, with tireless energy, for its far off point of destination. In a scroll over this scene, on a back ground of clouds, are the words of sacred prophecy:

EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW.

And underneath, the following inscription:

MEDAL SERIES OF THE U. S. MINT.

JAMES POLLOCK, Director.

On the other side is an admirable profile likeness, in relief, of the President, over whose head, in a three-quarter circle, are the words, PRESIDENCY OF U. S. GRANT.

And underneath the bust,

THE OCEANS UNITED BY RAILWAY,

May 10, 1869.

A single medal was struck in gold, enclosed in a crimson velvet case, and accompanied by a letter of presentation from Director Pollock, was delivered to President Grant, at the White House, December 7, 1869, by A. Loudon Snowden, Esq., Chief Coiner of the Mint, and William Barber, Esq., designer and engraver of the medal."

Copies of the medal have been struck in silver and also in bronze, and can be had at the following rates:

Silver Medal, \$5, postage paid.

Bronze Medal, \$1 75, postage paid.

Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street Philadelphia.

#### EUROPEAN COIN AGENCY.

In consequence of an arrangement now under consideration to establish a branch of our coin business in England, Mr. Mason will delay his proposed second trip across the ocean until arrangements are perfected for opening the agency, due notice of which will be given our readers.

## NEW FRENCH COINS.

*Notes and Queries*, of July 29, gives the following description of two coins of the French Republic of 1870, one a silver piece of five francs, the other a bronze piece of ten centimes. The five franc piece bears a bust of a female figure symbolical of the Republic, and wreath with oak, laurel flowers and wheat. The first six letters of the word "Concorde" are inscribed on a band on the forehead. This band is continued and hangs down behind the ear with a pearl necklace round the neck. Above the bust is a large five-pointed star, and below is the artist's name. The legend is "Republique Francaise." The reverse contains the legend "5 Francs, 1870," in three lines within a large wreath of branches of oak and laurel twined together. The circumscription is "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," with a point or stop after each word. Before the word "Liberte" is a small sprig of laurel. At the bottom is a small letter "A" between a bee and an anchor signifying the Paris mint. The edge of the coin is inscribed, "Dieu protege la France," or, "God protect France." The weight of the coin is 24 grammes or 370 grains. The bronze piece of 10 centimes has nearly the same design on the obverse as the five franc piece. The reverse contains the legend "10 centimes," surrounded by a wreath composed of one branch of laurel and one of oak, tied together with the same circumspection as on the silver piece. The edge is plain, and the weight is 146 grains, being the same as the English bronze penny. It is to be remarked that the "E" on the ten centime piece is marked with the accent.

## AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.

The historical importance and value of old letters can hardly be overestimated, and yet many of these precious documents, connected with the early history of our country, are often, too often thrown into the waste paper receptacle to go into pulp at the paper mill. The *Philadelphia Ledger*, of August 25, in alluding to letters and manuscripts, opportunely and ably remarks:

How much would have been irrecoverably lost if the letters of Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton and their compeers had not been preserved and published? It is these which give us the best insight into the events of their day, and the real characters of the great actors in them. The public records and the histories founded upon those records would be barren and delusive but for the aids furnished by letters and diaries. And even as to character what a priceless treasure is the collection of Jefferson's letters to his daughters and sisters, just published in Mrs. Randolph's "Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson." We cannot call to mind anything more charmingly instructive and salutary than the written communicatious of that grand old statesman to his children, as published in that book.

## CORRECTION.

The cabinet of coins of W. P. Coolbaugh, alluded to in our last issue, should be credited to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and not Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## READING CIRCLE.

Louis May, Hamburg, Germany, one of our subscribers, has established a Reading Circle, in Hamburg, where subscribers can call and read all the philatelic and numismatic publications of the world, or, for a trifle, take the periodicals home, returning them in proper time for other members to make use of. We heartily approve of these social gatherings, and trust that Louis *may* have his example copied in this country. We notice by circular that our journal is credited to London. Please correct this, brother May, in your next circular. The Reading Circle have the following journals on their table, at 48 Koppell, Hamburg: *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Philadelphia; *Le Timbre Poste*, Brussels; *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, Dresden; *The Philatelist*, London; *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath; *The American Stamp Mercury*, Boston; *Der Briefmarken-Sammler*, Leipzig; *The American Journal of Philately*, New York; *Le Timbrophile*, Paris; *The Philadelphia Monthly*, Philadelphia.

## THE ELLIOT COIN SALE.

A cabinet of coins, comprising 881 lots of American and Foreign silver and copper coins, will be offered at public auction, by George A. Leavitt & Co., New York, on the 5th and 6th of this month, commencing each day at 5 P. M. Included in this cabinet are some very rare and fine American pieces; also some choice medals and foreign coins. Catalogues have been forwarded to our patrons. On page 26 of the catalogue, the fine collection of Greek coins has been, by some accident, deprived of its heading. These rare and beautiful pieces commence at lot 615 and continue to lot 663, making 48 lots of very desirable ancient coins. All coins in this sale are guaranteed genuine unless otherwise described.

## NEW FRENCH COINS.

In addition to the five and two franc piece of 1870 and 1871, alluded to in our July number, we have examined the bronze five and ten centimes of 1871. These new bronze coins of France have the same design on obverse as the five franc piece, with legend, "LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE;" reverse, "ten centimes and five centimes," each surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel tied together, plain edges, weight respectively 146 and 73 grains.

## REVIEW.

*American Coin and Stamp Review* for August is received. This journal improves as it gains age, and gains in size as it grows older. There is ample room for our little neighbor from Allentown, Pa., and we hope it will be supported according to its merits. The Keystone Association publish the *Review* at 25 cents per annum. We should think the contents of this little four paged journal could be managed without the aid of an association.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. J., MILWAUKIE.—Queen Anne farthings are not rare. There are six varieties. The idea that only six were coined is a popular error. James II coined a five pound gold piece, now very rare.

R. A. P., CANTON.—Sale in Germany, Sept. 5. Sale in London in October. We shall make an earnest effort hereafter to supply our patrons with European catalogues of coin sales, but must charge the price for same usually paid in Europe.

H. S. S., FOREST CITY.—We have plenty of the numbers you name, excepting No. 1, for which we allow 25 cents. The colonial and continental paper money is original. 10 per cent. discount if you purchase by the set. No. 2 of the Coin Collectors' Photographs will not appear this year. Used your photographs, cannot now return the one you wish to obtain. None of the large plates on hand.

T. W. T., VINEYARD HAVEN.—Faustina, Sr. and Jr., Roman and imperial first, second and third brass refer to size, first brass being the largest coin. Account square. Too busy to answer by mail when your favor was received.

W. P. C., OSHKOSH.—There has not been printed a price list of the Packer sale. Our priced catalogue are \$2 each.

C. P. N., SPRINGFIELD.—Will meet you at the sale, Sept. 5.

H. P. A., BURLINGTON, VT.—Could not make out the rubbing of the Roman coin.

H. F. A., PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—Have not the catalogue with plates or would send it on.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, August 17, 1871.

DEAR SIR: After a long search, I was happy to receive name and address of your journal, which I was long endeavoring to find. As you see, from the circular enclosed, I have established a circle of reading journals of philately, and hope that your journal by this means may become known and procure you many subscribers. You would also greatly oblige me by recommending my enterprise in your fine journal and sending the copies for one year very promptly, as twenty subscribers I gained already in these few days are waiting for them with impatience.

Yours, truly, LOUIS MAY.

MINT DROPS.

A BOSTON paper says: "There should be a copper company at work on Half-way Rock, between Boston and Gloucester, where generations of fishermen have thrown lucky pennies on their outward voyages, to insure a full fare and safe trip. Its veins are full of copper and nickel cents, from the earliest issues down to the coinage of to-day. This operation is on as solid a basis as any in Wall street."

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has adopted a new system of gold and silver coinage, to correspond with the American. The unit will be the "yeu," or dollar.



## A CURIOSITY.

R. D. Munson is a persistent Yankee, a native of Williston, Vermont, who has devoted ten years to the achievement of making a clock that is more complicatedly ingenious than the Strasbourg time-piece, and vastly more serviceable. It runs eight days, and the dial marks the second, minute, hour, and day of the week, month and year; a thermometer rests against the pendulum, giving the state of temperature; the ball of the pendulum contains a miniature time-piece, which derives its motive power solely from its vibrating position, and keeps accurate time; with this there is a delightful musical apparatus, which plays an air at the end of each hour, and it is piously contrived so as to play only sacred tunes on Sunday, beginning and ending with the "Doxology." On national holidays, the airs are diversified patriotically with "Yankee Doodle," etc. This wonderful timepiece presents a black walnut front ten feet high, twenty inches wide, ten inches deep, and is embellished with profuse scroll work and national designs.

## SALE OF THE ELLIOT NUMISMATIC COLLECTION.

The Elliot Numismatic Collection and other Private Cabinets of American and Foreign Silver and Copper Coins, Medals, &c., will be sold without reserve, on Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings, September 5 and 6, 1871, at five o'clock, at the Book Trade Sales Rooms of Geo. A. Leavit & Co., Astor Place, New York. The coins will be exhibited at ten o'clock on each day of sale. Bids will be received by the Auctioneers; also by Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York; L. Boyson & Bro., Buffalo; Henry Ahlhorn, Old Cambridge Toll House, Boston; John W. Kline, No. 212 South Eighth Street, and Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

JAPAN.—We introduce a trio of interesting novelties in the shape of postage stamps for the Empire of Japan. The stamps are printed on thin soft Japanese paper, upon which the impression shows beautifully clear. The inscriptions and values are in black, and the remainder of the labels in the following colors:

1, indigo blue,                      2, pale yellow-green                      3, dull red.

They are all imperforate and un gummed. We have only seen one each of these stamps; and as they arrived almost at the end of the month, we were obliged to send them to our engraver without a day's delay, so have been unable to study inscriptions as we would wish. We are ignorant as to the coin in which their value is computed; but, from our slight knowledge of Chinese, we think we can detect upon them the character for one, two and three respectively.

Our correspondent (who is not a collector) stated that, as a new coinage was shortly to be introduced in Japan, these labels can only hope to have a very short currency. The chief coin at present in use in that empire is the *ichibu*, which is equal to about one shilling four and a half pence. As we do not think either candareens or cents are mentioned upon the stamps, we may venture to surmise that the value is in fractional parts of the *ichibu*. We, however, hope to give fuller details at an early date.

**VICTORIA.**—This colony is first in the field to adopt the half penny newspaper stamp of the mother country and second in regard to the post card boon. This appears from the following extract from the letter of a Geelong correspondent: "The Victorian government intend shortly to issue a half penny stamp for newspapers, and also post cards at a penny. The system of post cards has already been introduced into some of the government departments (being franked with the particular stamp of that department from which they are sent) the same as letters."

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**—This colony has seconded its neighbor Victoria in issuing envelopes. We presume the sole value yet out is the same as described in our April number—from an essay exhibited at the Philatelist Society's meeting by the President—the one penny, pale red. The other values will probably follow.

**ANGOLA.**—M. Moens states that the 25 reis of this Portuguese dependency is changed from flesh to bright vermillion.—*Philatelist*.

**HUNGARY.**—We have a new Hungarian journal stamp. It is of the value of one kreuzer, and is printed on thick unwatermarked wove paper.

**TURKEY.**—The 10 paras adhesive is now issued in pale brown, surcharged with black inscription, and with *pricked* perforations, and the Belgian journal notices a 2 piastre vermillion similarly perforated.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—A proposal was made in the House of Commons, last month, that its postmaster should be empowered to use a handstamp to mark prepayment of the members' letters, that the members may be saved the trouble of sticking adhesive stamps on them.

**CEYLON.**—One of our correspondents has sent us a used half penny stamp of pink color. It is of an ordinary type, is perforated, and shows no signs of having been chemically changed; we, therefore, presume that a new emission has taken place.

**BARBADOS.**—We have received from our old correspondent, Mr. Daniels, a specimen of the current blue stamp, star watermarked; and he informs us that the whole series with this watermark was issued several months since. The blue is of a peculiar dull slate tint, and probably the other values will be found to vary in color from their predecessors.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS.**—We have been favored by one of our subscribers with a view of a handstamped envelope from these distant islands. It consists of the words **FALKLAND PAID ISLANDS**, in three

lines, enclosed in a single line oblong frame. This very simple design is handstamped on the right hand corner of the envelope. The source from which we received notice of this novelty permits of our guaranteeing its authenticity.

FINLAND.—New envelopes have at length appeared for this province. The design is that of the existing adhesive series, and the value is expressed in pennia.

20 pennia, blue.

40 pennia, rose.

SPAIN.—The intelligence which arrives respecting the new stamps is very conflicting. The latest reaches us from a Madrid correspondent, and is to the effect that they are far from being on the point of emission. Several drawings have been printed, but the type has not been designated as yet.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—We have seen a specimen of the round local post hand impressed journal stamps, on colored paper, on which the letters P. L. are in Roman instead of block letters.

JAPAN.—According to the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, a paper published at Leipsic, there is actually a probability of stamps being issued for the Japanese empire. It states that Messrs. H. Engel & Son have obtained the contract, and are engaged in preparing a supply. We give this intelligence *sous toutes reserves*.

ANGOLA.—Our Belgian contemporary announces that the 25 reis is no longer flesh colored, but bright vermillion. The same authority furnishes us with the two following items, which we translate textually :

BAVARIA.—We have just received the 6 and 12 kr., perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , and an unpaid letter stamp of usual type, with the same perforation, value 1 kr., and printed in black on white. They have all the watermark reproduced in in our hundredth number.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We have received a penny envelope on white laid paper, bearing a stamp identical in type with the adhesive of same value. The stamp is struck on right upper corner, and the envelope is of the ordinary shape. The flap bears the design,

One penny, flesh.

AUSTRIA.—*Danubian Steam Navigation Company*.—The color of the 10 soldi has been altered from lilac to orange-red.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

#### TOBACCO STAMPS.

In reply to a letter from Supervisor Corwin, of Ohio, in relation to the matter of proper cancellation of tobacco and cigar stamps, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue says that the law prescribes definitely the mode by which the different kinds of tobacco and cigar stamps shall be cancelled. No stamp on a wooden package of tobacco is properly cancelled unless a portion of the stamp is sunk into the wood of the box by a steel die. It should enter the wood so as to leave an indention in the wood; if not, a portion of the stamp that may be plainly visible when the stamp is removed.

The mere cutting of the stamp with a sharp instrument, or a slight indentation of the stamp without breaking the paper, or puncturing the wood of the box, does not answer the requirements of the law. Again, no cancellation is properly done which omits the date of cancellation, or which omits the name of the manufacturer or proprietor, as the case may be, plainly and legibly written or imprinted upon the stamp.

The Commissioner says he does not consider every case of imperfect cancellation a proper cause for the seizure of the goods in the hands of the purchasers, but should consider it cause for proceeding against any manufacturer of tobacco or cigars who should knowingly and persistently continue to place his goods on the market not properly cancelled as the law and regulations require, or so imperfectly cancelled by such omissions as above indicated as to render perfectly easy the removal of these stamps and a second use of them on other packages. Cut packages of tobacco where all the marks and brands are gone, which are requisite for identification, may properly be seized, and the owner or possessor required to furnish evidence that the tax has been paid, or failing, to submit to a forfeiture of such tobacco.

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#### NEW UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMP.

Joseph R. Carpenter, of this city, contractor for printing adhesive stamps, has just submitted to the Internal Revenue office a model of the new five thousand dollar registered stamp, for use on deeds and other instruments requiring a stamp of that denomination. A specimen is being examined for approval, and is two by four inches, and the engraving is elaborate, and all the lathe work, except the lettering and figure work design, is entirely new, and is printed in four colors, in standard and soluble inks. The model will be adopted with slight modifications.

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#### THE SEVEN CENT STAMP.

In a previous number, we stated that the new United States seven cent postage stamp was obsolete on account of the reduction of postage to Germany to five cents. By the following official statement it will be seen we were in error:

#### POSTAGE WITH GERMANY.

An arrangement has just been concluded between the United States and Germany, to take effect on the 1st of October next, which reduces the rate of international postage for prepaid letters, if carried between the two countries by the closed mail via England, from ten to seven cents for each rate of half ounce or under. Unpaid letters so exchanged are to be charged with double the prepaid rates, and the insufficiently paid letters with the postage of unpaid letters, after deduction of the amount prepaid. This arrangement thus establishes a uniform postage of seven cents, or silver groschen, per rate on prepaid letters exchanged between the United States and Germany, on and after the first of October proximo, whether transmitted via England or by the direct lines via Hamburg or Bremen.

It is particularly to be observed that this reduction applies to letters only,

so that all correspondence other than letters posted in the United States for Germany will continue subject to the same rates of postage and to the same conditions of compulsory prepayment as are now applicable thereto. Postmasters will levy and collect postage on and after the first of October next.

By order of the Postmaster General.

(Signed) JOSEPH H. BLACKFORD, Superintendent.

The German Postal Department have notified our Post Office authorities that the following places in Alsace and Lorraine embraced in a former list of German towns by the definite treaty of peace with France, remain in the possession of France. Letters to these places will, therefore, be treated as French letters, and do not come under the provisions of the Postal Department of Germany: 1. Belfort, Alsace; 2. Beaucort, Alsace; 3. Bole Bouroque, Alsace; 4. Brunn Fontaine, Alsace; 1. Cirey au der Vezouze, Lorraine; 5. Oattenreid Velle, Alsace; 6. Geromangy, Alsace; 2. Mars la Tour, Lorraine; 3. Moncel au der Seille, Lorraine; 7. Welchen Kappelen, La Chapelle, sous Rougemont, Alsace.

#### UNITED STATES CIGAR STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(Concluded.)

USED IN 1869 AND 1870.

Fine lathe work and engraving, with blank space for manufacturer's name.

Twenty-five cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Vermillion. 9 inches by 1 inch.

Fifty cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Green. 12 inches by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

One hundred cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Black. 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Two hundred and fifty. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Blue. 16 inches by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Five hundred. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Yellow. 15 inches by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

#### IMPORTED CIGAR STAMPS.

USED IN 1866.

Fine lathe work, view of Treasury in oval in centre. Blank space for weight, date, district and state and inspector's name. Inscribed United States Internal Revenue. Imported cigars.  $12\frac{3}{4}$  inches long by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide. Brown and green.

USED SINCE 1867.

Fine lathe work, two portraits of Washington. Blank space for inspector's and steamer's names, date and port of entry. 15 inches long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. Red.

Fine engraving and lathe work, bust of female in centre. Inscribed "Internal Revenue U. S. Cigarettes. Weight not exceeding 3 lbs. per thousand. Tax Paid, seventy-five cents." 13 inches long by  $\frac{7}{8}$  inches wide. Black.

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

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VOL. 5.

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### HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

Excepting that branch which relates to the short period of our own history, the interesting science of numismatics has received comparatively little attention from the people of this country. Two causes have operated adversely to its study. One is, that from her geographical position, America is in receipt of only a limited number of specimens, and the other, a more discouraging one, is the fact of the existence of large numbers of the products of the counterfeit and forger. For both imitations of rare pieces, and also others which are wholly or in part the product of the imagination of their fabricators, often make their appearance here. Some of these are readily discovered by careful examination, but others are so skillfully made as to be detected only after an experience and a knowledge that few persons attain. It is proposed to give our readers some information on the subject, which will probably be new to the majority of them.

In order to a proper understanding, it seems desirable to state some first principals. Numismatics, then, is the science of coins and medals. A coin is a piece of metal stamped with certain characters by some power or government, making it pass current for money. A medal is never intended for money, but is usually struck in commemoration of some historical or local event. It will thus be understood that unstamped money is not coin. And we know that the former circulated for a very long period before we have any evidence of the existence of the latter. Thus in Genesis xxiii. 16, we read, "And Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." At this very early period, which chronologers compute at 1918 B. C., we have recorded the circulation of precious metals. For Abraham was stated to have been "very rich in cattle, silver and gold." The metals may have been in the form of drinking vessels and jewels, but there are reasons for believing that a part of it might have been actual money. The Egyptian sculptures and paintings, some almost as fresh as when they were executed, have representations of figures weighing out rings of money, while others are making a note on a tablet of the precise amount. Ancient authors

also allude to leather money, clay money, shell money and iron money. Of the latter, Rollin relates that Lycurges introduced it into Sparta, in order to sap the foundations of avarice, and had it made so heavy, and fixed the rate so low, that a cart and two oxen were necessary to carry home a sum equal in amount to about a hundred dollars of our money, and requiring a whole chamber to keep it in.

Humphrey says: "*Coined* money is not mentioned by Homer, which he would not surely have omitted to notice had it then existed, for his great poem is a sort of encyclopedia of the state of civilization in his time; and we find him, instead of coined money, alluding to the circulating medium then in Greece, as a much more primitive character; as when he says that an ox was exchanged for a bar of brass, three feet long, and that a *woman* who understood several useful arts was worth four oxen. Thus it appears that although metal was very early used as a medium of exchange, it merely represented, in a very direct manner, actual *barter*, till coin was invented."

(*To be continued.*)

## ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

BY EDWARD G. FAST, ESQ.

### COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES FOUND IN ANCIENT GRAVES.

The Kaloshians believe in a continuance of existence after death; but not in a reward of the good or punishment of the bad. There are large hunting grounds and waters abounding with fish, unattainable by mortals, far away in the interior of the country for the souls of the deceased. In order to be admitted there, the soul must be free from the stain which unjust actions leave on it; and, to cleanse it from these, the body is burned after death. The ashes are placed in a wooden box, which is generally ornamented with painting or carving. In olden times, the boxes containing the ashes of adults, and some idols and charms, together with a supply of weapons and implements of the chase and fishing, were deposited in deep clefts of rocks, and those of children on the branches of high trees. In modern times, *i. e.* since about eighty years, these boxes are put in large wooden frames, closed tightly on all sides, and raised four feet from the ground. Such frames are spacious enough to contain the boxes of the ashes of a whole family. Some are covered in front with a blanket painted with idolatrous figures. The older graves are to be found mostly in distant places difficult of access; the newer ones stand in groups behind the village to which they belong. In old times, besides a supply of fishing and hunting implements, the canoes of the deceased were placed near the grave, and I have met with graves on which the remains of four canoes could be distinguished. If a chief died who had slaves, immediately after his death a slave whom he had previously designated for that purpose was killed, in order to wait upon his master in the other world, and his corpse was burnt at the same time.

This barbarious custom exists yet; and, so late as in June, 1868,

it happened that the principal chief of the Sitka tribe, before dying, designated a slave whom he intended to take with him into the other world as servant and companion, but the timely intervention of Gen. Jeff. C. Davis happily defeated the execution of this project.

#### WAR, HUNTING AND FISHING.

The collection of war implements comprises all the artificial portable implements which, in olden times, the warrior used as well for attack as for defence, viz: helmets, visors, coats of mail, swords, clubs, etc. The shape and skillful arrangement of these implements and their strange appearance are conspicuous peculiarities indicating a twofold design, viz: to supply a physical defence and to inspire terror in the enemy. Here are to be found all the constituent parts of full suits of armor, similarly shaped and arranged as those used in Europe, and abolished there when the introduction of firearms rendered them ineffectual. Since the natives have become acquainted with the Russians and their firearms, their only weapon is the old flintlock gun. These guns, however, are merely old cast-off military muskets or rifles manufactured by Russian convicts, and of remarkable primitive shape, and not till the Americans got possession of the country were the natives provided; by traders from the British territory, with new and useful guns, pistols and revolvers, never seen before in the hands of the natives. There appeared among them, for instance, in February, 1868, hundreds of new guns, marked "Parker, Field, & Co., 1868," replacing the old discarded Russian firearms.

The hunting implements, as spears, bows and arrows, have likewise been replaced by the gun, except in those rare cases where the sharp report or the peculiarity of its operation is calculated to alarm or injure the game.

(*To be continued.*)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

78. C. Obv.—Bouquet entirely different in form from any other specimen, the flowers being very delicate. "AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE BAS CANADA." Rev.—Open wreath with slender stems and 18 leaves, with sprigs between. No bow but a small ribbon over the front of wreath. No dot over "o" in Sou. Stems of wreath almost touch letters "N" and "E" in Montreal. The dies of this coin, were found in the cellar of an old building on Notre Dame Street, and are now in the Cabinet of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, in Montreal. They are well executed, but not deeply cut, and are much larger than the usual *Un Sou* specimens, which probably is the reason they have never been used. No coins have ever been met with, struck from these dies, with the exception of four or five proofs in lead and about twelve in copper.

79. Brass. Obv.—Very open and slender bouquet. 1 rose, 4



leaves, 4 shamrocks, to right; 2 thistles, with 2 small leaves attached, 3 shamrocks, one of which turns over centre, to left. In centre, a leaf as in No. 39; on top, 2 similar leaves, attached to thistle on left, 2 heads and 2 blades wheat, the latter bending over to right and left. The whole bound by a slender bow to left, and ribbon to right. "*\*AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS CANADA.*" Rev.—Open wreath of 18 leaves, with sprig between, 9 on each side; no bow, but 2 leaves start upwards to right and left, from centre. "*UN SOU*" in large open letters, in centre. "*TOKEN MONTREAL.*" Edge plain. Rare.

80. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 6 leaves, 3 shamrocks, to right; 2 thistles, 3 leaves, to left; one of these leaves turns over and forms centre of bouquet; on top, in centre, 1 blade of wheat, with head of wheat on either side. "*\*AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE \* BAS CANADA.*" The letters are exceedingly rough, and the die is cracked in two places. Rev.—An eagle supporting a shield, on which an anchor is inscribed, the whole being surrounded by thirteen stars of six points each. "*T. DUSEAMAN BUTCHER BELLEVILLE.*" Between the words "*BUTCHER*" and "*BELLEVILLE*" is a large five-pointed star, and between "*T*" and "*BELLEVILLE*" is a small star. Edge plain. This is claimed by Dickerson as a Jersey token. Certainly the reverse is more like an American than a Canadian device, unless the coin was struck during the Rebellion of 1837-38. If this was so, we can easily account for the eagles and stars, with the emblem of Hope. It must, however, be admitted that the obverse is Canadian. Taking the coin as it stands, it is a curiosity, American devices on the one side—English roses and Scotch thistles on the other—while to complete the medley we have Bas Canada (Lower Canada), whereas Belleville (supposing it to be the Canadian town), is situated in Upper Canada or, as it is now called, the Province of Ontario.

81. C. Obv.—Front and side view of same building as No. 30. "*BANK OF MONTREAL 1838.*" Rev.—Same as No. 26, but name of bank on scroll in raised letters, and no date. Edge plain.

82. C. Obv.—Same as No. 81. Rev.—do., do. "*HALF PENNY.*"

83. C. Obv.—Same as No. 81. Date, "1839." Rev.—do., do.

84. C. Obv.—Same as No. 81. Date, "1839." Rev.—Same as No. 82.

These four coins are very rare, Nos. 81 and 82 particularly so. A specimen of No. 82, said to be the only one in Montreal, was sold in the collection of Mr. Hall, in March, 1868, for \$10, the agent who purchased having authority to pay \$20 for it.

85. C. Obv.—"*CANADA 1841.*" Rev.—Same as No. 21.

(*To be continued.*)

#### COIN SALE IN GERMANY.

The cabinet of Dr. Heinrich Haase was sold by auction, at Leipzig, on the 4th of September. The catalogue, numbering 4782 lots, contained but few American pieces.

## AN ENTERPRISING MANUSCRIPT HUNTER.

A late number of *Chambers' Journal* contains an interesting account of the efforts of M. Tischendorf to bring to light hidden literary treasures.

After M. Tischendorf had forced the doors of the Vatican Library, he was not to be stopped by others even more firmly closed. The monks of Mount Sinai were made to shake off their indolence and give up their treasures; and, in the spring of 1844, Tischendorf embarked at Leghorn for Egypt and Palestine. But by what secret could this savant without fortune prosecute such works? The fact was that the German public were becoming greatly interested in him, and when they heard that he intended exploring the manuscript riches East, from the convents of Cairo to those of Sinai, there arose a kind of emulation among his patrons. The King of Saxony was at the head, while the bankers of Frankfort and Geneva willingly offered their contributions; even the venerable David Schulz was not the last. Of this friend, Tischendorf says: "I never had but one letter from Schulz that found fault with me; it was when I returned the money he sent me."

He made a long sojourn at Cairo. Of the two libraries, one had been closed, or rather walled up, for many years; he opened these catacombs, where such literary relics of inestimable price were buried. How many precious pages also slept useless and despised among the Coptic monks and Georgian Cenobites, in the convents of Jerusalem, in the cloisters of Sinai, in the monastery of St Saba!

The reputation which his name and work had excited in Jerusalem drew the attention of Russia to him. The Russians have always had their eyes turned to the Holy City, with a longing desire for its possession. The year after the fall of Sebastopol, when the works of peace were to succeed those of war, the head of Russian legation at the Court of Dresden proposed to Tischendorf that he should make a third expedition to Palestine, in the name and at the expense of the Czar Alexander II. He and his empress threw themselves into the scheme with a kind of patriotic and religious enthusiasm, as they wished to establish the authenticity of the text on which the faith of the early Christians rested. In 1859, Tischendorf set out for Egypt.

The caravan of Bedouins was soon engaged; and in due time the majestic peaks of granite stood out against blue sky—the mountain alike honored by the Jew, the Christian, and the Mussulman, as the spot chosen for the revelation of the Law. A kind of fortress, built in the rents of the rocks, is the cloister of St. Catharine; at a signal from beneath, a door opens thirty feet from the ground, and a basket is let down, by which travelers must ascend. An exception was however, made this time for Tischendorf, according to the wish of the Ottoman government; and the prior met him at a gate reserved for visitors of rank, while his dragoman and baggage were hoisted up in the usual manner.

The three libraries of the convent excited his enthusiasm; a sort

of presentiment occupied his mind, and he felt sure that this journey would lead to some remarkable discovery. During his first visit, he had laid his hand on a basket of old papers and parchments, eaten away by damp, among which were many fragments of a manuscript Bible, which he recognized as one of the oldest specimens of Christian literature. He secured one of these fragments, and deposited it in the library of Leipsic; as to the others, he had no money to purchase, nor time to transcribe them; to his regret he was obliged to leave them behind him, recommending them to the monks' care.

(*To be continued.*)

### BOGUS PORTRAIT.

ONE OF OUR REVOLUTIONARY FOREFATHERS—HE TURNS OUT TO BE AN IRISHMAN—A BOGUS PORTRAIT IN INDEPENDENCE HALL.

Independence Hall, so frequently called "The Mecca of Liberty" by patriotic and enthusiastic orators who happen to be called upon to receive a delegation of visitors from abroad within its walls, is also considered a place belonging to the entire country. On account of this sacred edifice being located in this city, the United States Congress decided that Philadelphia was the proper place in which to hold the centennial anniversary of American Independence. Every stranger who visits Philadelphia goes to Independence Hall, and hours are often spent in viewing the different portraits that hang upon the wall, and autograph letters, copies of the Declaration of Independence, and other things which are there displayed. Each portrait has appended to it the name of some person who, history tells us, took some part in the struggle of the nation for independence, either as a signer of the Declaration or a prominent army officer, and the autograph letters purport to have been written by Washington and other distinguished personages.

A few years ago, it will be remembered, an individual was arrested and taken before the Mayor upon the charge of attempting to swindle people by selling bogus autograph letters of Washington. He acknowledged the soft impeachment, and in the presence of the Mayor wrote rapidly the signature "G. Washington" as perfect as in documents known to be genuine. Then there were some doubt about the genuineness of the letter which was displayed in Independence Hall, which had always attracted so much attention from visitors. Finally, to settle the matter, the letter was sent for by the Mayor. It was examined closely by the prisoner, who finally said, "Yes, that is one of them; I wrote that." Another development has been made within a few days past. One of the Peale family dropped into Independence Hall, and looked at the pictures. Portrait No. 50, labelled "General Charles Lee," attracted the especial attention of the visitor. The picture appeared to have a somewhat familiar appearance. A closer examination was made, and then it was discovered that the painting was a portrait of General Arthur O'Conner, of the Irish Rebellion of 1798. This picture, of General O'Conner was painted by the late

Rembrandt Peale, at Paris, in 1813. When the Peale collection (which originally belonged to the Philadelphia Museum) was sold, about fifteen years ago, a part of the collection was purchased by the city, and a part by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Some of the portraits were bought by Barnum for his museum in New York, and were destroyed by fire, a few years ago. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania was very careful to have the portraits which it purchased accurately labelled, but the Committee on City Property, who purchased for Independence Hall, was not so cautious. We have the satisfaction of knowing, however, that our City Fathers were not the only persons "sold" by the bogus portrait, as a New York publisher, who was engaged in publishing a life of General Charles Lee, sent here and had an engraving made from the portrait for the purpose of illustrating the book.—*Philadelphia Evening Telegraph*.

#### INTERESTING RELICS.

The executor and legatees of Miss Henrietta J. Bedford, who died, in August, at the age of eighty two, have consented that the valuable relics left by her shall be exhibited at Mr. Zibra Ferris, Jr.'s, store, so that our citizens may have an opportunity of seeing them before they leave our State forever. As they are of historical interest, many, no doubt, will avail themselves of this opportunity.

They consist of the following articles:

1st. Two pocket pistols, silver mounted, presented by General Washington to Judge Gunning Bedford, and bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. Miss Bedford's will says: "During the Revolution, General Washington desiring my father, who was aid-de-camp on his staff, to go from Trenton to New York, on some secret embassy, at night, and fearing that he was not sufficiently, armed with the pistols in his holsters, presented him with a pair of pocket pistols, with a view to his protection and greater security, which I devise to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington." On handing the pistols to Judge Bedford, Washington said: "If you return alive, keep these pistols as a memento."

2d. A silver punch strainer, belonging to my maternal grandfather, James Parker. Its history is briefly this: Dr. B. Franklin and my grandfather were printer boys in Boston, and saved a silver dollar from their first earnings, by selling newspapers in that city. They had these dollars made into punch strainers, and exchanged with each other, so that this strainer is made out of the dollar earned by Dr. Franklin. This is bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institute.

3d. Heavy silver tankard and waiter, with the Penn coat of arms engraved on them. These were presented to Gunning Bedford, grandfather of Miss Bedford, by John Penn, Jr., and John Penn, Esq. The inscription on them is as follows: "Presented by John Penn, Jr., and John Penn, Esq., to Mr. Gunning Bedford, as a Respectful Acknowledgment of his services in 1788." These pieces are

willed to Judge Gunning S. Bedford, of New York city, who is a great-great-grandson of the original owner. These pieces are exceedingly interesting and valuable.

4th. One heavy silver meat dish spoon, presented to Mrs. Judge Bedford, on the occasion of the birth of her first child, by Dr. Benj. Franklin. The will says Franklin, at its presentation, jocularly remarked, "as a pap spoon." This interesting relic is bequeathed to Mr. John McAllister, of Philadelphia.

Judge Gunning Bedford, although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was one of its framers, but, with his friend, Mr. Broome, was unavoidably absent at the time of its signing. It is to be much regretted that the voluminous correspondence of the Bedford family with Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, Monroe and others were destroyed, as it leaves a gap in history never to be supplied.—*Wilmington, Del., Gazette.*

#### THE NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

We call attention to the following letter, with a view of obtaining for Col. J. Ross Snowden matter of interest to advance the good work he is engaged in:

*Dear Sir:* I have, at the request of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, undertaken to prepare a memoir for the National Centennial "upon the precise time, place and incidentals of the composition, adoption, signing and promulgation of the Declaration of Independence."

In order that this work may be prepared in a creditable and acceptable manner, I have deemed it proper to invoke the assistance of my fellow citizens in collecting materials for it.

*First*—Persons who may have in their possession any letters, diaries or other manuscripts relating to this subject, will render a public service by sending me copies of such papers, or by giving a reference where they can be examined or obtained.

*Second*—I will also esteem it a favor to be referred to any published book, pamphlet or paper which may be useful in the discharge of the duty assigned to me. I make this request because some publications, especially those of a local and personal character, may escape my notice unless my attention is called to them.

*Third*—I intend to embrace in this memoir a notice of historical places and objects connected with the composition, adoption and promulgation of the Declaration of Independence; for example, the house where it was written, the desk used by Mr. Jefferson, the table upon which it was signed, the Hall of Congress, the chair of Hancock, the bell of Liberty, etc. And, as far as practicable, to notice the places of abode of each member of Committee of Independence, and of each member of Congress of 1776, while sojourning in Philadelphia. Information on these points will be gratefully received; and any engravings or drawings of persons or places connected therewith will be thankfully acknowledged. It is intended to illustrate the work with pictorial representations of historical places, and of persons and objects connected with the great event to be commemorated.

*Fourth*—Copies of the Declaration of Independence were sent, by order of the Continental Congress, under date of July 5, 1776, to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety of the thirteen States then declared free and independent; and to the several commanding officers of the Continental troops with instructions that it "be proclaimed in each of

the United States and at the head of the army." In Philadelphia, this order of Congress was carried into effect by the Council of Safety on the 8th of July, at 12 o'clock, at which time the Declaration of Independence was read and proclaimed from the building, in Independence Square, which had been erected in 1769 as an observatory to notice the transit of Venus. It will be interesting to place on permanent record the time and place of the promulgation of independence in the other States, and by the commanding officers of the Continental troops. Information on these subjects is also respectfully invoked.

*Fifth*—And generally any information, paper, manuscript or engraving which is germane to the subject herein mentioned, will be thankfully received, and will be duly acknowledged in the work which it is my intention to prepare, if life and health permit.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. ROSS SNOWDEN.

Philadelphia (No. 7 State House Row), Aug. 28, 1871.

#### NUMISMATIC PHRASEOLOGY.

In a previous number of this journal, we have called attention to the unmeaning and ambiguous phrases adopted by "some dealers" in cataloguing coin collections; as also the unnecessary introduction of new phrases in regard to conditions of coins. Unless numismatists, and those who undertake to catalogue coin cabinets for public sale, adhere to the simple rule of a correct description and use proper terms in designating the conditions of coins, the science of numismatics will become a byword and a reproach, instead of an important interesting study, which should, from its historical significance, take rank with the highest and most useful of intellectual attainments. Our attention has again been called to this subject by the receipt and perusal of the catalogue of the Nexsen coin sale, to come off on the 5th and 6th of the present month, in New York. Instead of the very concise, correct and brief terms, such as "fair," "good," "fine," "uncirculated," etc., we are treated to an admixture of conditions, in the Nexsen catalogue, alarming in frequency of occurrence, and amusing to the last degree in their significance as descriptive numismatic terms.

We trust in Brother Cogan's superabundance of good humor and placid good nature, in making a few selections notorious—out of no ill will to Mr. Cogan, or desire to make invidious critical distinctions between dealers. The Nexsen catalogue treats us to several new terms, the most imposing of which are, "smeared," "much rubbed," "more rubbed," "a little smeared," "been handled," "red, but smeared," "but been handled," (the latter an entire sentence), "been varnished," "much smeared," "slightly smeared," "more smeared." It will be seen by examination of the catalogue that the *smearing* term is of very frequent occurrence, and naturally leads one from the *cent* to the *scant*; to cipher out, or rather guess at the condition of the coins described. Has the owner been addicted to coating his coins with coal tar, or greasing them with ham fat, or have they been defiled by some worse coating, such, for instance, as shoemakers' wax and sandstone? The catalogue is not very explicit upon the meaning of *smeared*, and buyers at the sale must examine the

smear'd pieces, gingerly however, to satisfy themselves whether the coin is irredeemably injured or only delicately defaced. We have heard of very choice pieces being found in sewers, vaults and other obnoxious places, and perhaps the coins described as *smear'd* may only have been blackened by contact with gaseous matter or tar-nished by foul vapors. Pray, Brother Cogan, avoid what, to your own good sense upon mature reflection, will prove to be stumbling blocks (in the way of successful progress) to the seeker after numismatic knowledge.

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#### CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

In a German *Autograph Collectors' Manual*, published in Leipzig, in 1856, we find much curious information on the above subject, for which the author, in turn, acknowledges himself indebted to an article in the *Journal des Debats*.

As might be expected from what we know of the general character of that people, the Chinese regard autographs with a degree of veneration that is to us almost incomprehensible. The art of printing is to them "the divine art," "the inaudible voice that speaks to the spirit through the eye." As they worship their ancestors, it is, therefore, but natural that they should cherish their autograph relics with the most profound reverence.

In the "Flowery Kingdom," calligraphy is regarded not only as an art but as a science. The penmanship of every applicant for admission to membership in the Imperial Academy is personally examined by the Emperor, and, if approved, he is thenceforth entitled "Han-lin," or academician, and is universally recognized as a man of liberal culture.

(To be continued.)

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#### THEFT OF VALUABLES.

Several weeks ago, Professor Wagner, of the Wagner Free Institute, Montgomery avenue and Seventeenth street, in this city, missed from his valuable collection a number of minerals, precious stones and other articles. The loss is heavy and not easily repaired, as the Professor had been engaged many years in gathering the collection, which he valued at one thousand dollars. The matter was placed in the hands of Alderman Hagey, and after a diligent search he succeeded in arresting George R. Shirtcliff and one A. P. Case, charged with stealing the articles. Case, it seems, travels about the country as a professor of phrenology, and on Sundays takes part in debates on atheism. He is a sanctimonious-looking individual, and is a fluent talker. The prisoners were committed in default of bail.

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#### FORTHCOMING COIN SALE.

The cabinet of American and foreign coins and medals, the property of Jno. A. Nexsen, Esq., will be sold at public auction, by Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, on the 5th and 6th instants.

## PARIS RELICS.

Among the curiosities at the present moment must certainly be ranked the shells on sale, exploded and unexploded. At first, shells are sold in the rough, and good prices given for mere *eclats* or splinters. But the Parisian has a horror of anything *au naturel*, and cannot allow shells any more than beauty to go unadorned. So now there is an ingenious man on the Boulevard des Italiens who has made shells his *specialite*. He has got cones of shells as inkstands—and very solid ones they make, too—whole shells (spiteful lead-coated four-pounders these) made into tobacco boxes; broken pieces cleaned and polished, a little too much so to look genuine, and made into paperweights. One huge Krupp shell has been cut so as to take drawers in it for pens, pencils, etc., while another has been tilted on one side and shows a clock let into the hollow for the powder. These are only a few of the ingenious devices for making shells useful, if not ornamental, which may be seen in Paris, and there is at least one comfort for the inexperienced in purchasing this kind of relic, namely, that they run little danger of having a suppositious article palmed off on them, seeing that the supply of shells, burst and unburst, in Paris, just now, is likely to be sufficient for almost any possible demand.—*Paris Correspondent of the London News, 13th ult.*

## A RARE PIECE OF WORK.

We have recently been shown a magnificent silver medal, the property of a gentleman in this city. It is about as large as an American dollar and bears upon its obverse a bust of the Pope, surrounded by the words, PIVS IX. PONT. MAS. AN. XXI. On the reverse is a representation of Christ washing the feet of the Apostles, and beneath are the words, EXEMPLUM DEDI VOBIS. It was presented to the owner, in 1866, by the Pope himself, through the hands of Archbishop Spalding, of Baltimore, and is remarkable as being the second medal ever presented by the Pope to an American. Large sums of money have been offered for it, but the owner will not part with it. Gen. W. F. G. Shanks, editor of *Harper's Magazine*, after examining the medal, in New York, in 1867, offered a thousand dollars for it, which was promptly refused.—*Oshkosh, Wis., Paper.*

## FADED OUT.

The *Curiosity Cabinet*, published by W. P. Brown, New York, has vanished into thin mist, in other words, gone to keep company with the "Black spirits and white, Blue spirits and grey," of similar transparent publications which preceded it to *where the ivy clingeth*.

Hereafter, we shall change the well-known quotation to "Brown spirits and white," etc., "Don't give it up so, Mr. Brown" Whose turn next? as the barber says. There are several other publications flickering like a used up candle between daylight and dark. We are putting our house in order so that when our time comes we may slip unperceived into a quiet obscurity.



## HIGH PRICED COINS.

That the "good time coming," when rare coins can be purchased for something like a reasonable price, is fast approaching, is evident from the mere announcement that three great cabinets of coins are to come into the market. viz: Dr. Clay's, Col. Cohen's and Major Hodge's private collections. The question is, Can the coin trade maintain the present extravagant prices for rare and fine coins, in the face of such vast collections to be sold during the present fall and coming winter months? In Dr. Clay's catalogue, duplicates upon duplicates are to be found, and we fear the coin market can scarcely maintain its extravagant prices for rare and choice pieces in the face of such extensive sales as now threaten to engulf it.

## COIN SALE OF SEPTEMBER 5 &amp; 6.

The sale of the Elliot collection and other coins, at Geo. A. Leavitt & Co's., Astor Place, New York, last month, was not an entire success. The first day's sale was a good one in point of attendance and pecuniary result; but the second day's sale was not a good one in either point. We account for the falling off in attendance and prices by the exhibition of the Clay cabinet of coins. After having a good view of the latter collection, collectors and dealers concluded to save their surplus funds to invest in the Clay collection; and, here we would remark that auctioneers make a great mistake in exhibiting at their rooms a cabinet of coins, to be sold at some future day, upon the very occasion of a sale of the same kind not then concluded. The result, under these circumstances, is disastrous to the owner of a cabinet as well as to the auctioneers.

## COIN SALE.

A private collection of coins, medals, etc., will be sold, at Birch & Sons' auction rooms, in this city, about the 1st of November. Catalogues will be forwarded to our patrons in a few days.

## Philatelic Department.

## NEW ISSUES.

SPAIN.—We have the good fortune to be the first to reproduce the type which, if we are correctly informed, has been adopted by the government for the forthcoming series of Spanish stamps. It may be said to mark a new era in European postage stamp portraits, as no attempt had previously been made to give the features of royalty on such a (comparatively) large scale, and to produce a life-like appearance. The profile of Queen Victoria is an ideal, that of the French Emperor is the expression of a Napoleonic idea, whilst the other portraits are mere engravers' inanities. That of Amadeus I is, on the other hand, remarkable for its truthfulness; the likeness is unmistakable, and it is large enough to give room for the clear delineation

of every feature. In this respect, it reminds one forcibly of the two cent American, with head of Old Hickory. As to the general contour of the face, it is not difficult to trace therein a "family likeness" to Victor Emanuel. The framework is of fair average merit, but presents no very salient point; and we fear that the border does not leave room for the expression in prominent characters of the lengthy denomination of value found on Spanish stamps. Only a few copies have been struck off; and the colors are not yet decided on. We hope, however, soon to have intelligence of both colors and values, as we are promised early impressions of the forthcoming series.

**JAPAN.**—We were able, last month, to refer to a rumor to the effect that stamps for the Japanese empire were really in preparation, and our Brighton contemporary's last number contained engravings of the said stamps. From information and specimens we have since received, we are in a position to state that besides the three stamps alluded to, a fourth exists, and perhaps others. They are all on very thin Chinese wove paper of yellowish tinge, and are lithographed. The inscription in the centre is black, and the surrounding design in color.

**SWEDEN.**—The long-lived Swedish adhesives are to be relieved from service on the 1st of January, 1872, when they will make room for an entirely new and, let us hope, original series, composed of the following values, viz.: 3, 5, 6, 12, 20, 30, 50 ore, and 1 rix dollar. In other words, the value will be the same as the present, with a new one added—the rix dollar; but with the adhesives will appear also a 12 ore envelope and a 12 ore post card. It is rather strange that the card should be as dear as the envelope. What can be the advantage in using it on those terms? The cards, it is true, are to be sold at their facial value, whilst another ore will be added to the facial value of the envelopes, if not more than ten are bought at a time, and half an ore for greater quantities; still there is not very much difference between the all-hiding envelope and the all-displaying card. Colors and design are as yet unknown, but the correspondent who has kindly favored us with the foregoing information has promised to furnish us with proofs on cardboard as soon as possible.

**FRANCE.**—We clip from a Parisian paper of the beginning of last month the following item:

Paris is suffering now from an inundation of false 10 and 20 centimes postage stamps, which is really surprising. These stamps are, it appears, obtained from new dies, with the effigy of the republic, which have been stolen. They can with difficulty be recognized; one single detail of engraving, uncompleted at the time of the theft, distinguishes them from the genuine impressions. But the police are on the track of the counterfeiters, who, notwithstanding all their stamps, will hardly be able to *go free* themselves.

It appears as if the engraved republic series were here referred to, and not the Bordeaux type; if so, a new emission may be reckoned among the probabilities.

**SWITZERLAND.**—One of our correspondents sends us a Swiss en-

velope—the 30 centimes, blue, in left corner, bearing the usual dove watermark, and therefore evidently official, with a peculiar flap stamp, consisting of a shield, with an obscure device on it, supported by griffins and surmounted by a coronet. The envelope came from Berne, but the design does not much resemble that of the “Kanton Bern” fiscal stamps. The arms are enclosed in a beaded oval, and as the impression of the upper part therefore is not clear, it would seem that this flap stamp was struck after the envelope was completed. There is nothing in the vocation of the senders of this particular envelope to justify the addition by them of these armorial bearings; we therefore think they are added in the Berne post office; and if so, the envelopes on which they appear become varieties of considerable interest.

HUNGARY.—The series of Hungarian adhesives and envelopes, recently noticed, and which we should have mentioned as being identical in its values and colors with the Austrian set, seems likely to have but a brief circulation. The design was lithographed, and left much to desire on the score of clearness. Probably from this reason the postal authorities have, we assume, determined to supercede it by an *engraved* and identical design. At all events, we have before us a 2 kreuzer stamp bearing a design engraved with a fineness and delicacy which could not be surpassed; and it is in all respects the copy of its lithographed predecessor. The portrait of the emperor is a remarkable one; and we shall be much surprised if it does not turn out to be a perfect resemblance.

GERMANY.—First among the postal emissions for the new empire, comes an unpretending post card, inscribed with the words DEUTSCHES REICHS POSTGEBIET,—“Post office of the German Empire”—an inscription which represents a fact, and not an “idea.” The imperial eagle divides the two of the above words from the last. It is a single headed eagle, and its two legs shoot out straight from the body; in an escutcheon on his breast is the Prussian eagle, with its attributes. The card which we describe is buff, the inscriptions are in black, and there is a place ruled on the right hand side to contain the adhesive stamp.

NEVIS.—The one penny is now printed in a rosy lake shade, approaching that of the first edition, but distinguishable therefrom by the paper, which, like that of the preceding issue is pure white. This new variety came over by the West Indian mail, together with supplies of the penny orange red.

CEYLON.—A correspondent writing from Kandy, informs us that a new coinage for the island, with the denomination expressed in *cents*, is shortly to make its appearance; and, he adds, no doubt the stamps will also be renewed. In thus adopting the decimal system, Ceylon will only be following the example of the Straits Settlements.

VICTORIA.—We are informed by a correspondent that it is in contemplation to issue half penny adhesive stamps to be used to prepay the postage on local town letters.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—The 10 soldi is now printed in the same color as the 17 soldi—deep rose.

ST. VINCENT.—The penny stamp of this island, hitherto printed in red, is now changed to black.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

#### ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Although postage stamps are among the most familiar objects of daily use, it is probable that very few persons have troubled themselves to consider when and where they originated. In a pamphlet by M. Piron, *Sous-Directeur des Postes*, published in Paris, in 1838, and entitled, "Du Service des Postes, et de la Taxation des Lettres au Moyen d'un Timbre." we find that the idea of post-paid or stamped paper originated early in the reign of Louis XIV, with M. De Velaye, who, 1653, established a private penny post, placing boxing at the corner of streets for the reception of letters wrapped up in envelopes, which were franked by bands or slips of paper tied around them, with the inscription, "Post paid the—day of—, 1653 or '54." These slips were sold for a *sou tape*, and could be procured at the palace, at the turn tables of convents, and from porters of colleges. When Louis XIV used to quit his habitual residence, the personages of his suite were accustomed to procure these labels intended to be placed around letters destined for Paris. M. De Velaye had also caused to be printed certain forms of *billets*, or notes, applicable to the ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns, with blanks which were to be filled up by the pen with such special matter as might complete the writer's object. One of these *billets*, filled up by Pelisson and sent to Mademoiselle Scudery, is still preserved in Paris, and is one of the oldest of penny post letters extant, and a curious example of a prepaying envelope. These primitive slips and forms were irregularly used and soon fell into disuse. In 1758, however, under Louis XV, one M. De Chamouset, a wealthy Parisian, established a modest post for the metropolis, charging two *sols* for single letters under an ounce, which were prepaid by stamps similar to those now in use. Government, perceiving the gains thus derived from the new enterprise, took it from him, compensating him by an annual pension of twenty thousand francs; but so meagre were the arrangements of the government that the *stamps* were seldom used, and soon were entirely forgotten.

The next country to issue postal stamps was Spain, they having been authorized by a royal decree of the 7th December, 1716, which stipulated that the secretaries to the crown, etc., will have the privilege of apposing on the letters addressed to the other authorities a seal, impressed in ink, bearing the royal arms of Castile and Leon, which will pass them free. By the general regulation of the post (8th June, 1794) notice was given that the stamps mentioned in the decree of 1716 were to be used only for letters concerning public business. These official stamps remained in use until the beginning of the present century, when their issue was entirely abandoned.

We have now to introduce to our readers a description of semi-official stamped postal envelopes used in Italy (Sardinia) from 1819 to 1836. On the 7th of November, 1818, the emission of stamped postal paper was announced, and the conditions on which it might be used. This paper was prepared under the immediate supervision of the *Directeur des Postes*, and could be procured at post offices, and from vendors of tobacco, who received a commission upon their sales. There were three values: fifteen centesimi, twenty-five centesimi, and fifty centesimi. These covers were but little used, however, and were finally withdrawn by the seventy-third article of a royal decree of the 30th of March, 1836, in consequence of a modification being made in the postal regulations by the seventy-second article of the same law.—*Harper's Magazine*.

(To be continued.)

### THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A MILLION STAMPS.

The following article has been going the rounds of the press for the past two months:

The Post Office Department is almost daily in receipt of letters from various parts of the country, making inquiry as to the truth of the current newspaper statement that the Government will pay three hundred dollars to the collector of one million of cancelled postage stamps. Of course, this statement is utterly without foundation, and it was doubtless started by designing persons to induce the collection of quantities of defaced stamps, with the expectation of picking them up in large lots at a trifling cost after the collectors have ascertained the futility of the original expectation of selling them to the government.

As the United States government repudiates the bargain, we take up the discarded job and now in good faith offer three hundred dollars for one million used United States Postage stamps of any issue, delivered in lots of one hundred thousand, and the money to be paid when the stamps are all delivered. Stamps to be well mixed as regards values.

### RARE CONFEDERATE POSTAGE STAMPS.

Having recently secured a few of the rare one cent orange postage stamps of the Confederate States, we will send a single specimen unused and warranted original, for 25 cents to any address. These stamps have been sold by dealers for \$2 each. Early application will be necessary, as we purpose sending those remaining unsold, after a few weeks, to England.

### WOULD NOT STICK.

A letter was posted, at a village post office, that had no postage stamp on it, but in the place of the stamp had the following written on one corner of the envelope:

"Mr. Postmaster, don't charge no postage on this; the stamp wouldn't stick, so I tore the thing up."

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

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### HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

The most ancient coins that have come down to us are those issued by the states and cities of ancient Greece. High authorities seem to be agreed that gold was first employed, and that a gold stater of the city of Miletus, in Lydia, Asia Minor, now in the British Museum, exhibits marks of a more ancient character than any other known coin. This also accords with the statement of Herodotus, who says the Lydians first coined gold. The word "stater" signifies *standard*, and appears to have weighed twice as much as the silver standard or drachma, and to have equalled in value twenty drachma. The stater of Miletus is believed to be about twenty-five hundred years old, and illustrates the manner of the most primitive coinage. A die was cut, having the device (in this case a lion's head) in reverse. This die being fixed, a bullet of gold of standard weight, was laid upon it, and driven, by means of a punch upon its upper surface, into the die. Both the pattern and execution are, as might be expected, very rude; and yet these early pieces are characterized by a boldness of design very striking. As the art of coining improved somewhat, the metal was first more or less flattened before being stamped.

Of the same weight and of similar fabric are the daric or gold staters of Darius Hystaspis. The earliest of these coins are supposed by some authorities to be cotemporary with or even anterior to any ancient coins. Upon the obverse is represented a crowned monarch kneeling on the left knee, and armed with bow and javellin; the reverse shows only the punch mark or *quadratum incusum*. Respecting these darics and also the silver coins of like character, George Rawlinson makes the following remarks:

"The coinage of Darius Hystaspis, B. C. 521-486, consisted, it is probable, both of a gold and silver issue. It is not, perhaps, altogether certain that he was the first king of Persia who coined money; but, if the term 'daric' is really derived from his name, that alone would be a strong argument in favor of his claim to priority. In any case, it is indisputable that he was the first Persian king who coined on a large scale and it is further certain that his gold coinage was regarded in later times as of peculiar value on account of its purity

His gold darics appear to have contained, on an average, not quite 124 grains of pure metal, which would make their value about twenty-two shillings of our money. They were of the type usual at the time both in Lydia and in Greece—flattened lumps of metal, very thick in comparison with the size of their surface, irregular and rudely stamped. The only darics that can be assigned to the reign of Darius Hystaspis are those that have the figure of a king with a bow and javelin on one side and an irregular depression or *quadratum incusum* on the other. The silver darics were similar in general character, but exceeded the gold in size. Their weight was from 224 to 230 grains, and they would thus have been worth not quite three shillings of our money. It does not appear that any other kinds of coins besides these were ever issued from the Persian mint. They must therefore, it would seem, have satisfied the commercial needs of the people."

Whether the art of coining was derived by the Persians from the conquered Greeks, or whether it originated, as there is some ground for supposing, among the Persians themselves, is not fully settled. But it is interesting to the student in history to know that these darics were employed in the payment of the Greek soldiers during the march and retreat of the ten thousand, as narrated in Xenophon's *Anabasis*; and that they were also employed by the Jews as a free-will offering for the building of the temple, as stated in *Ezra ii. 6-9*. Other cities and islands of Asia Minor, coining gold money at a very early period, were Sardis, Cyzicus, Clazomene, Phocæa, Lampsacus, Chios, Teos and Abydos.

(To be continued.)

## ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

BY EDWARD U. FAST, ESQ.

### PROFESSIONAL IMPLEMENTS OF A MEDICINE MAN.

The medicine man was once a person of great rank and distinction. His professional status was due to the superstitious credulity of the people, and his office comprised the healing of the sick as well as the conjuring of the evil spirit in general.

In the belief of the Kaloshians there does not exist a being bearing any kind of relation to the idea of divinity; nay, not a being personifying the principal of the good and beneficent. But everything which, within the realm of creation, is of preponderating importance to their existence, as water, rain, wood, the fish, the bear, etc., they represent to themselves as a hostile principle, and as one whose protection for themselves and help against their enemies they must endeavor to obtain. Their imagination gives to such beings those grotesque and horrid forms which we find expressed in the drawings on their old articles of furniture and dress, and in the carvings of their old weapons, idols, charms and their smaller utensils, with stereotyped unity and precision.

At the head of all these beings, and personifying, as it were, the

idea of all that is bad and terrible, stands one whose attributes are misfortunes, extirpation and death. This being was represented in a shape which is a kind of medium between a crocodile and a turtle, sometimes resembling most the former, sometimes the latter. This figure is traceable in nearly all their carvings and paintings, and it is mostly interwoven in all kinds of shapes with the features of other beings, betraying a combination of ideas in which its importance seems always to have been the leading point.

In the language of the Kaloshians, there is no distinct original term for this being, but each of its separate attributes bears its particular name, and is represented by a distinct being. "Icht," for instance designates the being which brings death, and is represented in a figure with long flowing hair. But as death is, according to the conception of the Kaloshians, the termination of all misfortune, the end and object of everything bad, and equivalent to destruction and annihilation, they generally use this word to designate also that principal being. At the same time, "Icht," as a being, is identified with all things and actions connected with death; and, in their language, "Icht" is employed for designating all such things and actions. They are, therefore, objects of the most anxious solicitude, and in the belief of the Kaloshians the least profanation thereof brings death. Such also is the consequence of profaning the charms and idols which represent "Icht" in its collective capacity, and only the medicine man and the principal chiefs dared to wear them.

The medicine man was supposed to be in spiritual communication with these beings, and able to conjure them. Sickness was a mode of operation of "Icht" caused by the presence of the latter in the sick, and it was the professional task of the medicine man to cast him out by his manipulations.

As the people, by their communication with the Russians, become aware of the superiority of the modern remedies, the influence and distinction of the medicine man disappeared. At present, his professional efficacy has ceased almost entirely, and only a certain traditional influence enables him, with grave and solemn deportment, to occupy, on festive occasions, a prominent place among his former believers.

Besides his professional ability, the medicine man was the bearer or guardian of the national traditions. These traditions date back to the creation of the universe, and are a tissue of all kinds of mystic fables; being entirely oral, they must in the course of time, and with successive generations, have suffered many modifications.

*(To be continued.)*

#### A MENDICANT BY CHANCE.

BY E. M., JR.

The following amusing incident, related to us by a jovial numismatic joker, is too good for private preservation, and in making it public we trust our good-natured friend R. will not be offended.

A sale of coins came off, in New York, a few years ago, during the



hot summer months, and among the patrons from other cities was Mr. R., an enthusiastic collector of coins, who was drawn to the sale by the announcement that a fine 1799 United States Cent was to be disposed of. R. had been long searching for a fine specimen of this date to complete his series, and after an examination of the coins on exhibition at the auction rooms, concluded, as it was his first visit to New York, to walk around until the hour of the sale and view the public buildings.

About noon, when the sun was pouring down its fiercest rays, R. arrived at the City Hall Park, and being very tired, decided to rest himself for a few moments upon one of the old wooden settees scattered about in the vicinity of the fountain. R. had and has a habit, when sitting, of taking his hat off and holding it in his left hand extended, while his elbow rests on his knee. Upon this occasion, R. was in a profuse state of perspiration, and while his hat was extended in one hand the other was engaged in wiping the dripping moisture from his forehead. An elderly lady, dressed in deep black, wearing spectacles, was slowly passing R., when the extended hat met her gaze, and naturally thinking our bald-headed friend was one of the numerous beggars which abound in the great metropolis and without doubt, near-sighted, as R. prides himself on his elegant apparel—and no sane person possessed with good eyesight could for a moment mistake him for a mendicant—stopped and gazed reflectively into the hat, and without ado plunged her wrinkled hand into a good-sized reticule and brought forth a piece of money, and dropped it in the outstretched hat and passed on. In vain R. called after her for an explanation; in vain were his protestations when he quickly suspected the error and recognized his position, the old lady deaf to what was transpiring behind her back, and no doubt contented with her contribution in the hat, continued on.

The position was a painful one for R., who was blessed with ample means, and always more ready to give than receive. With a hasty formed conclusion to overtake the lady and return the coin, R. replaced his hat, and quickly started in pursuit; but the chase was futile, the lady having passed into the surging mass of beings flooding Broadway and was "lost to sight" though to *somebody's* "memory dear." R. jumped into a bus, and soon landed at the auction rooms, where in the midst of a select few he related the circumstance which had reduced him, in the twinkling of a tiny second from affluence to beggary! All were anxious to see the coin, and R. drew forth an old black and rusty copper cent, while many merry jests at R's. expense ran around the room; one remarking that a *cent* was rather a poor beginning for a mendicant of his respectable appearance. Another remarked that the old lady probably suspected that he was a bogus beggar, or her contribution would have been larger. While these and similar jests were bandied about, R. was engaged in examining the copper when he suddenly cried out: "A ninety-nine, by heavens!" and so it was, and thus R. completed his

set, at the loss of a few dollars to the owner of the collection on sale, whose 1799 was inferior to R's piece. Time wore on, and recently R. was exhibiting his set of United States Cents to a critical friend, who tested each rare coin by balancing it on the top of his fingers, sounding the metal, by striking it with a metallic substance, when he discovered that R.'s 1799 was an excellent electrottype copy of that rare and valuable United States coin. R. is in search of another 1799 cent.

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

86. C. Obv.—Same as No. 30. Rev.—Same as No. 26; date "1842."

87. C. Obv.—Same as No. 30. Rev.—Same as No. 26, "HALF PENNY 1842."

These coins, Nos. 86 and 87, also appear bearing date "1844."

88. C. Obv.—St. George on horseback, to the right, slaying the dragon. In exergue, between two roses, "1850." On the ground under the dragon. "R. K. & CO. BANK OF UPPER CANADA." Rev. Arms of Upper Canada. "BANK TOKEN ONE PENNY."

89. C. Obv.—Same as No. 88. Rev.—do., do., "HALF PENNY."

These coins are well executed. The device on the obverse is copied from Pistrucis crown piece. They also occur of the dates "1852," "1854" and "1857."

90. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26. Rev.—Arms of Quebec, "QUEBEC BANK TOKEN, 1852. ONE PENNY."

91. C. Obv.—Same as No. 25. Rev.—Same as No. 90, "HALF PENNY."

92. C. Obv.—Within a beaded circle, head of Victoria to left, laureated, "VICTORIA DEI GRATIA CANADA." Rev.—Within a wreath of maple leaves, in a beaded circle, "ONE CENT, 1858." Scarce.

93. C. Obv.—Same as No. 89. Rev.—Do., do., date, "1859."

The head on these coins, and indeed the whole obverse, was designed for an English coinage, but the inner beaded circle not being approved the design was rejected. The inner circle, very rarely seen on coins of the present day, was copied, by desire of the Master of the Mint, from the bronze coinage, then recently issued by the Emperor Napoleon III.

94. C. Obv.—A ship under sail to right. Rev.—Within a circle of cordage, "R. W. OWEN, MONTREAL ROPEERY." Edge engrailed. Very rare. No specimen of this coin has been met with in Montreal.

95. C. Obv.—Same head and beaded circle as No. 92. Inscription, "DOMINION OF CANADA PROVINCE OF QUEBEC." Rev.—Within a beaded circle, in 5 lines, "USE | DEVINS' | VEGETABLE | WORMS | PASTILLES | JULY 1ST | 1867." Outside of circle, DEVINS & BOLTON \* DRUGGISTS, MONTREAL." No specimen of this token has yet been

issued. They were ordered (by the firm whose name they bear) from Birmingham, but upon their arrival in Canada, were seized by the authorities: the *New Currency Act* forbidding the manufacture or importation of coins or tokens. The token is well executed and is the same size as the Canada Cent, No. 92, and would doubtless pass through a number of hands as such without the mistake being discovered. The description is taken from the proof sent out to Messrs. Devins & Bolton for approval.

(*To be continued.*)

### AN ENTERPRISING MANUSCRIPT HUNTER.

(*Concluded.*)

When, after nine years, he returned, they had all disappeared, and he could gather nothing respecting them from the inmates of the convent. On this occasion, he made fresh researches without result; but when the time of his departure was fixed, one of the monks asked him into his cell, and spoke of his labors in the Greek text of the Bible. "And I," said the monk, "possess a Bible of the Septuagint." Going into a corner of his room, he unwrapped from a black cloth the precious relic which M. Tischendorf had seen in 1844. He gazed on it with rapture, asked permission to take it to his room, and, with unspeakable delight, found that it contained twenty-two books of the Old Testament, and an entire New Testament, "The Epistle of Barnabas," and the first part of the "Pastor of Hermas." The first part of the Epistle had only hitherto been known by a very defective Latin translation, although the church of the second and third centuries always ranked it with the Epistles of St. Paul; and as for "The Pastor," the few manuscripts which remained of it were of a much more recent date, in which but little confidence was felt.

Here was a discovery; but knowing by experience how little disposed the monks were to part with their manuscripts, he could only ask for permission to copy it. And yet the caligrapher of Alexandria had evidently been more than a year in transcribing this volume, during the fourth century. To understand its value, it may be desirable to say that the end of all philological study, applied to theology, is to purge from the sacred text accidental or intentional interpolation which the hand of the transcribers had added in the course of ages. The best guides had hitherto been three manuscripts of the fourth and fifth centuries—the one at the Vatican; one in London, known under the title of the Alexandrine; and one in Paris, the Palimpsest of St. Ephraim. None of these are complete; certain gospels or epistles are wanting; and, therefore, the value of a Greek text of the same date as that of the Vatican, and complete in every part, may be estimated—the only one which, from the fifth to the fifteenth century, has escaped the ravages of time. Unfortunately, the prior of the convent had just left for Cairo, and his permission was necessary in order to carry out M. Tischendorf's desire, which was to carry the volume to Cairo, and there engage copyists to work as quickly as

possible, that he might take this inestimable treasure to Jerusalem, where he was shortly to meet the Grand Duke Constantine.

He started without a moment's delay, arriving at Cairo in a week. A Bedouin, trusted by the monks, was sent back with the promise of a good recompense if he would bring the volume safely and in a short time. The incredible time of nine days sufficed to cross the desert twice. The copyists were engaged; M. Tischendorf took his part—he directed them, solved their difficulties, and replied to their questions; and for more than two months this lover of science was nailed to his chair in the Hotel des Pyramides. Vainly did the spring breezes play against his window, and the thousand scenes of this great caravansera of nations demand his attention; he saw nothing but the letters traced by pious hands fifteen hundred years before, and listened only to the inward voice, which whispered: "Be not weary; another line, another page. Christian science expects this offering from you, the oldest copy of the book of good news." Such was the souvenir that the Grand Duke was to possess of his journey to the East; he could show the much-wished-for jewel, the pearl of the Eastern Church, the Codex Sinaiticus. Rome, Paris, London, each possessed a relic of past ages; St Petersburg would now have its own, and the most precious of the three. He reached Jerusalem in time to enter the Holy City with the Grand Duke and Duchess, to whom was accorded a reception such as had never been granted to a Christian prince since the days of the Crusades.

### CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(Continued.)

The Chinese take such delight in beautiful writing that the walls of their public buildings are ornamented with gigantic characters executed by their most eminent men, who are generally also their most accomplished calligraphers. Thus, for instance, the sole ornaments of the great Temple of Confucius, at Peking, consists of autographic votive inscriptions of all the Chinese emperors for the last two thousand years. Of Confucius himself, no autographs are known to exist, though some have been preserved which were at least two hundred years old when the great philosopher was born. Confucius, by the way, is so highly venerated by all classes, that not one of his temples has ever been desecrated, though in times of insurrections the pagodas of Buddha have frequently been destroyed.

The innate reverence of the Chinese for their rulers renders the autographs of the latter invaluable; moreover, all official documents signed by the emperor—who always affixes his signature in *red* ink—must, under the severest penalties, be deposited at the end of every year, in the imperial archives at Peking. This fact, of course, adds greatly to the rarity of his autograph, and hence a few words, "His majesty is well," written by the Emperor Kang-hi, a cotemporary of Louis XIV, in reply to an inquiry of his courtiers concerning his health, were recently sold for one thousand francs.

China must be the paradise of dealers in autographs, as almost every man in the empire is a collector. Rich and poor are alike proud to exhibit their autographic treasures. As, however, all persons cannot be the recipients of long letters, a few words, written on a *fan*, must in many cases suffice as a specimen. His fan might almost be considered an integral part of every Chinaman; no matter whether he is cold or warm, whether it rains or snows, he cannot exist without his fan; and nothing can afford him a sweeter revenge than to exhibit in the presence of his enemies a fan on which are written the signatures of some of the great dignitaries of the empire.

(*To be continued.*)

#### NUMISMATIC ERRORS OF THE PRESS.

It is a grievous and just complaint among numismatists that publishers, editors and reporters of newspapers and periodicals in the United States exhibit a lack of knowledge in regard to numismatology, notwithstanding the great interest the public manifest in every discovery of hidden coins, and the large number of our people interested in the true history of the world's coinage. One would suppose that the press, so thoroughly posted upon all the subjects of life, would aim to possess a perfect knowledge of the history of coins and medals. Nearly every article that appears in the press concerning these interesting and instructive mediums of exchange is full of the most unpardonable errors of description and rarity.

Harper Brothers published a work on coins, in 1861, full of errors, concerning the American coinage; and more recently Frank Leslie has issued an illustrated journal, in New York, crammed with nonsensical descriptions and erratic wood cuts of American coins and medals. The accounts now going the rounds of the newspaper world, giving the result of the Hodge sale, in Washington, is absurd. A proof set of coins, dated 1804, including the dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime, is represented as having been sold for nineteen dollars and fifty cents. The fact is, that there was no half dime of 1804 coined, and if there was or was not, we should have given, at least, one thousand dollars for the set; but, unfortunately for us, there was nothing of this kind in the collection. It is hoped that there may, at some future time, prevail a larger and better knowledge of numismatics among the newspaper fraternity of our country.

#### PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

We call the attention of our patrons to the sale of coins to come off at Birch & Son's Auction Rooms, 1110 Chestnut Street, in this city, on Tuesday, November 7. This collection is an interesting one, having in it several very rare and valuable American pieces seldom offered at public sale. Catalogues furnished upon application, or telegraphic bids can be sent to Edward Cogan, Mason & Co., J. W. Kline, or auctioneers to care of above address.

## SALE OF THE HODGE COIN CABINET.

By direction of the United States Government, the collection of coins, once the property of J. Ledyard Hodge, was sold, by public auction, for reasons well known to the public, at Mr. Hodge's former residence, in K Street, Washington, October 23. Mr. Knox, of the Treasury Department, and Mason & Co., of Philadelphia, were the only buyers; the latter firm securing all the rare and valuable pieces, excepting a lot of half cents, dating from 1840 to 1850, which were bought by Mr. Knox for nine dollars and twenty-five cents each. Among the choice things we secured at the Hodge sale were proof sets of 1846, 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1858; also, proof dollars of 1836, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857 and 1858; *unique* pattern half dollar of 1839 and an excessively rare pattern half dollar of 1838; pattern half dollar of 1859, having the Pacquet head of Liberty with reverse of ordinary half dollar of present issue (a very rare piece). We succeeded in obtaining a set of the rare half cents; also, proof copper cents of 1854, 1856 and 1857, and proof half cents of 1833, 1834, 1850, 1854, 1856 and 1857. All the above named are for sale, together with some rare colonials, patterns, Washingtons, etc.

## THE CLAY CABINET.

The date of the public sale of Dr. Charles Clay's collection of American coins and medals has not yet been made public, nor has the catalogue been announced for any particular time. It seems very strange that there should be such delay in the preparation for auction of this cabinet. Dr. Clay catalogued and prepared the collection with great ability, months ago, and we inspected the coins personally at the auction rooms, in New York, on the sixth of last month, and now we go to press, on the eve of November, without being able to announce anything of interest connected with the sale. Publicity is required to make a sale successful; but all our efforts to obtain information of time and particulars have been unavailing. Dr. Clay will discover that our offer, at his house, in Manchester, England, of six thousand five hundred dollars in gold for his collection, in May last, was a fair, square price, and we predict that the sale will not realise much over this amount in greenbacks and the doctor will have a fearful array of expenses to liquidate.

## THE NEW COINS OF JAPAN.

The new silver coinage of the Japan government has at last made its appearance. The standard of fineness and weight is identical with the United States coinage. The unit, called the Yan, is similar in size and value to our own silver dollar. The coins, three in number, are round in shape and are called the Yan, Half Yan and Quarter Yan; designs are the same on each of the pieces—obverse sun, halo in the centre, wreath below, three flowers above; reverse, imperial dragon, surrounded by Japanese characters, edge reeded or milled, similar to the United States silver coins.

## NEW MINT MEDAL.

A beautiful medal, to be struck in gold, has been designed, at the United States Mint, for presentation to Alexis, Grand Duke of Russia, upon the occasion of his visit to the Philadelphia Mint; obverse, bust of the Duke, with title, etc.; reverse, inscription in four lines, "VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, 1871," surrounded by a beautiful wreath; size 40. If copies of this medal are struck in bronze and for sale, we will notify our patrons in the next issue.

## NEW JAPANESE MONEY.

The Continental Bank Note Company, of New York, has now completed the engraving of plates for two denominations of national currency for the Japanese Government. The bills are denominated respectively "One Yan" and "Five Yans." A "yan" corresponds with a dollar in United States money.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. V., INDIANAPOLIS.—The dump of Brazil and Portugal, or 80 reis copper pieces, were restruck in the United States from the original dies, surreptitiously obtained about 1835, and extensively circulated in Portugal and Brazil. The government of these countries were compelled to depreciate the value of their coinage by calling in and reducing the 80 reis to 40 reis, restamping the latter value over the former.

E. P., BOSTON.—You think the announcement that "Hodge's collection of coins is to come into market," rather premature, if not altogether an error. Well, perhaps, you are right; but it is our firm conviction that Mason & Co. purchased nearly all of the Hodge cabinet, at a public sale, in Washington, at Hodge's residence, on K Street, October 23, and that an employe of the United States Treasury Department was our only competitor. The sale of the other collection is only a question of time.

A. W., ASHBURNHAM.—Clay's collection will be sold the latter part of November. We send catalogues to all our patrons.

S. T. C., NEW YORK.—The Hodge collection of coins, as sold in Washington, October 23, realized \$435 07, and was purchased by Mason & Co., through Mr. J. C. Randall (with the exception of a few pieces bought by Mr. Knox, of the United States Treasury Department). "The early bird," etc.

F., PHILADELPHIA.—We are preparing an article, for the December number, concerning the expense, dimensions, etc., of coin cabinets. We hope all those who peruse this reply will send us their views of the best method of constructing a cabinet, etc., the proper means of preserving coins, together with the plans adopted individually.

S. H., TROY.—Address of *Numismatic Journal*, No. 18 Somerset Street, Boston. Terms, \$2 per year, in advance. Subscribe, and you will never regret it, as the *N. J.* is managed with consummate skill, and is worthy of the support of every numismatist.

T. W. C., MILWAUKEE.—You were not the first to discover that several of the United States half dollars have but twelve arrows on reverse. J. S. Randall, of Norwich, is entitled to the credit of first calling public attention to the fact, and he has thus far made known, through the *Boston Numismatic Journal*, four dates of half dollars, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1805 over 1804, having but twelve arrows in the eagle's talons. If you find any other instances of the engraver's error, in this respect, please report them to this office.

W. B. R., ST LOUIS.—It is a long time since we heard from you. We have an assortment of fine notes, colonial and continental, on hand. We do not want the money in advance. We will send notes and coins in any quantity to our patrons to select from. Shall we send you a package?

H. P. A., BURLINGTON, VT.—Your last letter was received; it was dated July 12. Shall be pleased to hear from you. Would like to send you a package on approval, if you will designate your wants.

J. M. T., CINCINNATI.—We can send you business cards, such as you wanted about one year ago.

A. B., BROOKLYN.—We decline purchasing the Clinton piece at one hundred dollars. Would give about half that price, in trade.

#### JANUARY MAGAZINES WANTED.

We call attention to the following letter, in hopes of securing for the writer a January number of the magazine for 1871:

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., October 9, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.—GENTS: Upon receipt at Vinita Junction, Atlantic and Pacific, and Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroads, in Cherokee Nation, on the 27th ult., of your favor of August 31, on which you replied to a previous inquiry of mine, "Can get you the back numbers from January, 1871, although a tight squeeze?" I enclosed a year's subscription, and Saturday evening last, received the roll—February to September, inclusive. It was a fear that I might not be able to get *all* the back numbers that induced me to write before enclosing the subscription for the year, as I had delayed the matter so long. I understood the January number to be included in the "squeeze," so you must squeeze it out somewhere, if the thing is possible. A broken volume seems to be but little better than a missing one; but a note I noticed in one of the number sent, gives a satisfactory explanation as to the missing January number. If you succeed in "calling in" any of the copies for that month, I don't want to be overlooked in their distribution. I shall look for one. So send it along, and at same time notify me of amount of extra charges and *I'll remit by return mail.*

Yours, etc.,

M. B. WESSON, Box 283.

#### BLACK LIST.

The large number of small amounts due to us for coins, etc., renders it necessary that some plan must be adopted, upon our part, to collect them. When these bills remain unpaid (after proper notification) *one month*, we shall insert the initials of each delinquent under the title of this article. If unpaid balances are not settled in two weeks after publication of initials, we shall insert in the next magazine the name and address in full.



## COINS ON APPROVAL.

Any of our readers or patrons wishing a package of coins, paper money, medals or relics of any kind on approval will be accommodated by making application and designating what class of coins, etc., they would like forwarded. We pay return express charges.

## Philatelic Department.

### PHILATELY CONSIDERED AS A MORAL AGENT.

BY E. M., JR.

The attention of parents, guardians and those having the care or guidance of the young of either sex, is earnestly called to the importance and value of philately, as a great moral agent, or lever, as it were, to lift the young mind from low trifling thoughts and employment to high intellectual studies and noble pursuits.

Philately is an infatuating study, and from its variety of attractions, in the way of novel postage stamps (in color and design), presents to the young mind a field at once vast and interesting. The prattling child views in it a series of bright and beautiful pictures, and at once is formed a desire to know more of the little gum stickers. The school girl and school boy, farther advanced in the world's knowledge, recognise a new geographical and historical instructor in a postage stamp, and a new method of learning the world's present and past history, a method not found in their school books; then comes the desire to form a set of stamps of some particular nation, of which, from some discarded envelope, they have the initial specimen; thus set after set is obtained and an album constructed from some blank leaves of an unused ledger bank book, or more often a copy book or quire of letter paper is brought into requisition. Now comes the youth out among his associates, a foot higher, a degree prouder, in feeling than when ignorant of the use and purposes of stamp gathering. How bright his eyes, how inflated with pomp and pride, when the boys gather around his small collection, devouring in utter amazement the explanations of the young philatelist, and feasting their straining eyes first upon the speaker, and then gaping in wonderment upon the little colored squares of printed paper, so neatly and uniformly arranged upon the little book before them. Mark that lad's influence: the boys scatter and enter their different homes; and soon after hoops are dropped, balls roll away and lay undisturbed in some distant corner, and the mania for stamps when once deeply rooted can never be fully eradicated. As the child grows to manhood, he points with pride and satisfaction to his amateur efforts in the philatelic way and remembers that the common little scraps of printed paper, blurred and disfigured by over stamping, were the stepping stones which led him up the intellectual ladder, and gave him a knowledge of the world's history that few young men possess. This knowledge gave him a social status among

his companions greatly to be envied, and better than all it preserved him from the evil habits that inflict three fifths of the youths of our country. A hobby of such valuable moral worth as philately should be encouraged and perpetuated in our homes, and thus keep out the demon of intemperance, the criminal practices of the gaming table, and fit our young men for elevated pursuits, making them, at once, respected and respectable; improving by their influence the moral tone of the community, and setting an example of industry, studiousness and intelligence.

### THE DEAD LETTER.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

And can it be? Ah, yes, I see,  
'Tis thirty years and better  
Since Mary Morgan sent to me  
This musty, musky letter.  
A pretty hand (she couldn't spell),  
As any man must vote it;  
And was't, I remember well,  
A pretty hand that wrote it!

How calmly now I view it all,  
As memory backward ranges—  
The talks, the walks, that I recall,  
And then—the postal changes!  
How well I loved her I can guess  
(Since cash is Cupid's hostage)—  
Just one-and-sixpence—nothing less—  
This letter cost in postage!

The love that wrote at such a *rate*  
(By Jove! it was a steep one!)  
Five hundred notes (I calculate)  
Was certainly a deep one;  
And yet it died—of slow decline—  
Perhaps suspicion chilled it;  
I've quite forgotten if 'twas mine  
Or Mary's flirting killed it!

At last the fatal message came;  
"My letters—please return them;  
And yours—of course you wish the same—  
I'll send them back or burn them."  
Two precious fools, I must allow,  
Whichever was the greater;  
I wonder if I'm wiser now,  
Some seven lustres later?

And *this* alone remains! Ah, well!  
These words of warm affection,  
The faded ink, the pungent smell,  
Are food for deep reflection.  
They tell of how the heart contrives  
To change with fancy's fashion,  
And how a drop of musk survives  
The strongest human passion!

## NEW ISSUES.

JAPAN.—We have just seen, for the first time, some specimens of the new Japanese postage labels. They are all of the same design, but of four different colors; the brown represents 48 zenî, or half a tempo; the blue, one tempo; the red, two tempoes; the green, five tempoes; *i. e.*, about five cents. These stamps are square in size, and have evidently been designed after the French postage stamps, which they resemble in size and shape.

They are apparently engraved from copper plates. The outer border of the design is not unlike the well-known Etruscan key border; next to this is an ornamental edging, of the Vandyke pattern. Inside this is a repetition of the well-known and seemingly irrepressible Riu, or dragon, whose portrait figures so conspicuously upon the old Kinsatz and on the new coins. Finally, in the centre, are some characters printed in black ink, which stand for, in case of the red stamps, the words "Zeni, Nihyaku mon," the amount which the stamp represents.

The postage for the letter weighing five momme ( $\frac{3}{8}$  oz.) is 15 tempoes, about half a bee, or say 12 cents. A foreign merchant of Osaka informs us that he sent a letter recently through the imperial post office, and has since heard that it was received in Yedo within three days of the date of its dispatch from Osaka. Advantage has also been taken by foreigners to forward letters by this route, when the steamer leaving Kobe had been missed, in order to catch the mail before it left Yokohama.—*The Hiogo News.*

SPAIN.—The accession of King Amadeus has led to a fresh change in the armorial bearings, which now consists of two lions and two towers, in four corners as before, and the cross of Savoy in the centre, the whole surmounted by the royal crown. A handstamp bearing this device, and destined for the use of members of the Senate, has just made its appearance. Like its predecessors, it is inscribed SENADO CORREO, is oval, and is printed blue.

A second stamp has the towers and lions, plus the Granadian emblem, in the point of the shield, and Savoy cross replacing the Bourbon lilies in the centre, the shield being surmounted by the royal crown. Above the arms is a scroll, inscribed COMUNICACIONES, and below, on a second scroll, EL DIRECTOR GRAL. Impression is in black.

URUGUAY.—It is announced that the 5 and 10 centimes will shortly be superseded by fresh designs, which are now being engraved in England, and will be perforated. The 15 and 20 c. will continue in circulation for some time to come.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

## ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued.)

The next attempt at issuing postage stamps was made by one Treffenberg, of Stockholm, who proposed to the Assembly of Swedish Nobility to issue stamped paper to be made into envelopes for

letters. The proposition was warmly supported by Count de Sewerin, on the ground that it would be both convenient to the public and to the post-office, but the proposition was rejected by a large majority.

But to Mr. Rowland Hill are we indebted for that postal reform introduced by him into the British Parliament, in 1837, which, among other reforms, proposed that letters should be prepaid by means of stamped covers, or envelopes. His proposition met with much opposition. Fortunately, thousands of petitions poured in for the furtherance of this bold project, and Parliament moved, by such a general manifestation, caused a commission to examine the plan. After many stormy debates it was adopted, and put in operation on the 6th of May, 1840. To Mr. Hill, then, do we owe the adoption of the idea, and its more practical development. As soon as the postal scheme was matured in England, and the emission of postal stamps decided on, the authorities issued a prospectus offering a reward of five-hundred pounds for the best design and plan for a stamp. The conditions, which were widely circulated, stated that the chief desiderata were simplicity and facility in working, combined with such precautions as should prove effectual against forgery. Thousands of designs—many of the most elaborate workmanship—were sent in; but none were so simple as that furnished by Heath, of London, which was subsequently chosen. About the same time, a prize was offered for the best design of an envelope, which was gained by Mulready, R. A., who produced that peculiar combination of allegories representing England attracting the commerce of the world. It was engraved on brass by John Thompson (the pupil of Branston), who devoted many entire weeks in cutting it in relief. By the stamped envelope and adhesive of the present day it has an almost mediæval appearance. England, therefore, has the honor of creating the first postage stamps (those previously mentioned having little in common with those now in use) where they were created to be successively adopted by all civilized countries. Upon this simple foundation has been built a postal reform which vies with any other reform in this reforming age. After a currency of a few months, the "Mulready" envelopes fell into disuse, and were superseded by the small adhesive stamps furnished by Heath of London. In July, 1840, a two-penny stamp was issued, and subsequently a complete series ranging in value from one half penny to five shillings.

*(To be continued.)*

## STAMPS.

•BY WILLIAM T. ADAMS.

The use of postage stamps on letters and newspapers is merely a new application of an old invention. Revenue stamps are comparatively new with us, but they have been known in Europe for nearly two hundred and fifty years.

The Dutch have a right to whatever credit may be due for such an

invention. Early in the seventeenth century, the states of Holland had laid heavy duties on merchandise of every sort, and still the income of the government was not equal to the expenditure. They now offered an ample reward to any one who should invent a new impost; one that would, at the same time, be light on the people, and be productive to the public treasury. Some shrewd thinker proposed that it should be enacted by public authority that no petition should be received, that no document should be admitted in courts of justice, that no contracts of any kind should be valid, except such as were written upon paper impressed with the seal of the state. This appeared to the Hollanders a happy idea, and stamped paper was introduced at once (1624) by an ordinance which represented the necessity and the great benefit of the new tax. Stamped paper, it was claimed, would tend to lessen the number of lawsuits, and for that very reason, if for no other, would soon be adopted by other nations.

The Dutch were right. In less than fifty years a trial of stamp duties were made in England—though not for the purpose of lessening litigation, perhaps,—and other nations were not slow to follow. Indeed, the Spaniards are said to have been ahead of the English.

At the present day, this Dutch fashion holds its ground over a large part of Christendom. A slight change, it is true, has been made. At first, the blank for the writing was sold with the stamp, and it was necessary for the government to invest a large amount in paper. The improvement consisted in selling the stamps separately, as is now done in most cases.

When the uniform cheap postage commenced in England, somebody suggested the idea of paying postage by means of stamps, and the plan was adopted in 1840. Seven years later, the Postmaster General of the United States was authorized to prepare postage stamps, and to furnish them to the post offices throughout the country. In 1852, stamped envelopes were authorized.

At first, the writer could place a stamp on his letter, or pay the postage and send it without a stamp; but, since the beginning of the year 1856, it has been the duty of the postmaster to place stamps on all letters on which stamps had not already been placed—that is to say, if the postage had been paid.

In 1861, the Postmaster General was authorized to procure and furnish letter sheets "with postage stamps impressed thereon;" but the method of folding these so that, when sealed, their contents cannot be read may almost be reckoned among the lost arts, and there is consequently very little call for this kind of stationery.

#### POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

A sale of rare and valuable foreign and American postage stamps was announced at Leavitt & Co's, Astor Place, New York, for October 9. The catalogue consisted of 229 lots. Strange to say, Scott & Co., managers of this sale, are silent in their journal of October 20, concerning the result.

# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

### MAGAZINE.

VOL. 5.

DECEMBER, 1871.

No. 12.

#### HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

The Parian Chronicle records that Phidon, King of Argos, first caused silver money to be coined by the people of Ægina, a rocky island in the Saronicus Sinus (the modern Gulf of Egina). Conjecture places the period somewhere in the eighth century before the Christian era. From the researches of Borrel, it appears probable that the coins executed by order of King Phidon were different from those peculiar to the Ægeineians, and used as their own currency, which are believed to have had an earlier origin. Those of the island are easily known by the invariable tortoise which occupies the obverse, the reverse having, as in the case of the early gold coins of Asia Minor, the simple mark of the punch used in driving the metal into the die. It is interesting to trace the progress made in the art of coining by the improvement in the execution of the pieces. The earliest has a rude but boldly designed tortoise, with four deep triangular indentations on the reverse. The next exhibits the reptile with a row of knobs on his vertebral column, the reverse the quadratum incusum. Still later we find a more artistic tortoise, showing the convolutions of the shell, and also having the initial letters Aig (anciently *i* was often used where *e* is now employed). The punch mark, too, is greatly improved.

The purity and standard weight of the money of Ægina, which comprised several different sizes, obtained for it a general circulation throughout the Peloponnesus. In fact, for a time, it was nearly the only circulating medium there, the coins being known as tortoises, from their type. The tortoise was sacred to Mercury, to whom was attributed the invention of weights and measures. It is believed that the reliability of this money established for it such a character as made it so desirable not to change the type at any subsequent period, and it is known that such was the case long after improvements had been made in the coinage of other States.

There are coins in existence, similar in their general character to the above, which must have been minted at no very distant period therefrom. These, from the type which is found to be peculiar to a particular city or state, are usually easily located. For instance, the

Athenian type is the owl, the Bœotian a buckler, the Dyrrachian a cow suckling her calf, and the Sybarian a bull. On later issues are usually added the initial letters, as *Athe* on Athenian, *Dyr* on Dyrrachian, etc. The knowledge of our art must have spread first throughout Asia Minor, the islands in the *Ægeum Mare* and Peloponnesus, then into the more distant parts of Græcia, into Sicilia, Italia Inferior, and the most distant Greek cities. As time progressed, great improvements are noticed; the punch was ornamented with various designs, and then an actual device was placed upon it. Still later, the initials of the city or province, and also those of various magistrates were arranged around a square space upon it, in some cases in an indentation specially provided for the letters; and finally a perfect die was substituted altogether for the punch; in other words, *two dies* were employed, and have continued in use up to the present day.

(To be continued.)

## ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

BY EDWARD G. FAST, ESQ.

### DRESSES.

The usual dress of the man consists of a woolen blanket, linen trousers and shirt, most commonly well worn and dirty. Of the women, a blue blanket trimmed with red cloth and numerous buttons, covering an unspeakable dirty shirt and petticoat. Since the Americans arrived, among the females, especially the younger ones, some signs of a turn toward cleanliness and neatness have appeared. They begin to wash their shirts, and what is much more, their faces, and favor modern dresses, of course, of somewhat primitive pattern.

### DOMESTIC HABITS.

The Kaloshians are not a nomadic people. The dreariness of the soil and the roughness of the climate are contrary to a nomadic style of life. Many tribes live still on the same spots as their ancestors many years ago. This stability accounts for their steadiness and industry in former times. The poorer families live in small huts made of bark, and just large enough to receive the members of the family and a few utensils, and to allow a fire to burn in the centre of the room. The dwellings, in compact settlements, consist of houses, generally of square form, and put up of roughly prepared logs and boards, and roofed with bark.

Such houses are occupied by a number of families, and their owner is considered the chief. The interior of a house is, with few exceptions, exceedingly filthy. There is no place, no utensil, no article of provision, no living creature to be found manifesting cleanliness and propriety. Filth is everywhere, and the domestic habits of its occupants are in accordance with the general feature of the place. To judge these people by their present domestic condition, they must appear as the most miserable and pitiable creatures. It would be, however, not difficult for them to better their condition, but they are

too lazy and indifferent to work more than extreme necessity dictates, and all their earnings by fishing and the chase are spent in rum and whisky. Their domestic implements, once so skillfully and artistically manufactured by their ancestors, are of the most primitive quality, and generally articles cast away by or bought of the Russians; and fancy articles, except bracelets of silver imported from the British Territory and the only ornament of woman's dress, are to be found only as relics.

(*To be continued.*)

### CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(*Continued.*)

Counterfeits are, of course, plenty, and the Chinese are so patient and skillful in such matters that a practised eye is required to detect the fraud. This will appear from the following incident: When the Tartars overthrew the Ming dynasty, Tschén, the viceroy of Canton, remained loyal to his former sovereign and was, therefore, condemned by his captors to be sawed to pieces. His heroism in the midst of the most fearful tortures rendered him so popular that the new emperor found it prudent to disavow his execution, to enshrine him among the deities and to erect a pagoda to his memory; his autographs were, therefore, much sought and highly prized. A member of the French legation happened to have four of these, which he had framed and hung on the walls of his office. One day, a Chinese artist saw them and begged the owner to lend them to him for a single day, in order that he might exhibit them at the wedding of his son. His wish was cheerfully granted, and in due time four counterfeits were returned in their stead, though they were executed so skillfully that the owner would not have detected the imposition had he not made certain private marks on the originals before suffering them to pass out of his hands. When the fraud was discovered, the counterfeiter pleaded so earnestly that his act was not exposed to the authorities; had it been done, he would have died under the bastinado.

(*To be continued.*)

### HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(*Continued.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the years 1822 and 1823, an attempt seems to have been made to institute an uniform coinage for the British colonies, on the decimal system, and coins were struck of the value of 1 and 2 cents, but were never circulated. These are seldom found except as proofs and are exceedingly rare. We give in Nos. 1 and 2 a description of these coins.

1. C. Obv.—Bust of George IV. to left, laureated and draped.



"GEOR: IV: D: G: BRI: REX." Rev.—In a wreath of oak leaves,  
 "1/50 DOLLAR COLONIAL 1823."

2. C. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—Do., do., "1/100 DOLLAR."

3. C. Obv.—Locomotive. "MONTREAL & LACHINE RAILROAD COMPANY." Rev.—Beaver beside water, trunk of tree with two branches in background. "THIRD CLASS." These checks have a round hole in centre. When these tickets or checks were imported, this railroad connected the city of Montreal and the village Lachine, distant nine miles. The principal portion of the passengers were the Indians and squaws, from Caughnawaga (on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence), and the men employed upon the canal then building. It became necessary to secure something more lasting than the ordinary ticket, and accordingly a large supply of these were procured from Birmingham. The conductor carried them strung upon a piece of wire, which accounts for hole in the centre. They are becoming scarce, as the balance remaining in the hands of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway Company were melted, at St. Lamberts, in September, 1862, thus leaving a comparatively small number in circulation.

(To be continued.)

#### EDITORIAL TOUR.

Having just returned from a coin hunting trip, in the States of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, we must ask the indulgence of our readers for the lack of the usual coin and stamp matter in the present number, and offer, as a set-off, a brief description of our journey. We left home, on the 13th of November, in time to attend the Cogan coin sale, in New York, advertised for that date, and at the close of the sale jumped aboard the Hudson River cars for Albany. A short stay among our patrons in the latter city convinced us that the numismatic fraternity were prospering finely, and the select few who kindly received us at Stanwix Hall have our thanks for favors extended. From Albany, a few miles distant, we entered the thriving city of Troy, where we hurriedly interviewed the coin collectors and pushed on to Hoosick Falls, a small city snugly esconced in the corner of New York, near the line of Vermont and Massachusetts. Here we met a remarkable man, an enthusiastic numismatist, mineralogist, geologist and conchologist, possessing, also, rare abilities in other sciences and that is not all, for we found our old friend and patron, Lyman Wilder, a mechanical genius of extraordinary ability. We had often heard of Mr. Wilder's famous octagonal building, in which is treasured the curiosities, minerals and relics collected by an enthusiastic admirer of the beauties of nature during a busy life. We found Mr. Wilder at his beautiful residence, and had the pleasure of inspecting the curious structure that contained so many valuable and interesting specimens of nature. The octagonal building is erected in the garden, at the left side of the residence, fronting the street, and is two stories high. The lower

floor contains large and handsome glass cases, arranged around the centre of the room, springing up from which is a huge octagon glass case, filled with specimens of rare and beautiful birds, and standing at least fifteen feet from the floor. The flat cases arranged in a circle, about two and a half feet from the floor, contain thousands upon thousands of crystals, from the size of a pin head to the largest single specimen known—glimmering in the sunlight like beds of diamonds. Agates and other stones, selected for their beauty and rarity, are arranged in beautiful figures, and these cases alone would require a whole day, following the huge catalogue, to read the numbers and descriptions. Upon the walls, in the corners, are erected mechanical or revolving shelves, moved by a crank, exhibiting the most interesting native and foreign minerals at each turn of the wheel—all large and perfectly formed specimens. Quite a number of other shelves, for smaller specimens, are raised by an ingenious mechanical contrivance, in enclosed glass cases upon the walls, so that one shelf, when examined, moves quietly down out of sight, while a second rises up to view, this disappearing in turn, and a third, fourth and fifth of the concealed shelves rise for examination in like manner. All these perpendicular lifting boards have small strips, upon which are fastened, well labelled and numbered, multitudinous varieties of minerals, shells, fossils, insects, etc. Mr. Wilder keeps in this room a reception book for visitors' names, and the many addresses recorded proves that his beautiful cabinet is appreciated by many of the talented scientific men of the country, while the remarks frequently given opposite their names show that his efforts in behalf of science are warmly appreciated if not properly remunerated. A side stairway conducts the visitor to the second story of the cabinet, which is arranged with equal skill for the reception of the larger specimens and rare and curious relics. The building, we should think, is about twenty-five feet in diameter, with a height of fifty feet from the base to the top of the cupola. Mr. Wilder is a large manufacturer of agricultural implements and woolen machinery, and at the time of our visit had just patented and finished a new power, driven by hand, having the force of a small steam engine, and, to convince us of its practicability, sawed a thick plank readily, while we furnished the motive power by simply turning a flywheel with a small crank or handle attached. Mr. Wilder is an industrious and wealthy citizen who has added increased lustre to a bright little city, full of enterprise and vim. The coin cabinet belonging to Mr. Wilder is unique in its way, and arranged with improvements for opening and closing the drawers (particulars of size, etc. in a forthcoming article on coin cabinets), contains a very choice collection of the different series of American coins and medals and a large number and many varieties of fine and valuable pieces.

Our next move was back to Troy and Albany; thence to Binghamton, Hornellsville, and Buffalo; thence back to New York, up to Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut, into Springfield, Massachu-

setts, bringing up at the hub of creation—Boston. At all these places we met good, honest, earnest workers in the numismatic line; gentlemen by education and conduct, who gave us a hearty welcome and relieved us of an overload of coins by exchange and purchase, for all of which we return our thanks—warm and hearty. In Boston, we found relatives and friends who made our stay agreeable; among the latter we cannot resist the temptation of naming W. Elliott Woodward, of the Highlands, a gentleman and scholar, whose equal, as a numismatic expert, it would be difficult to find, and by whose condescension and courtesy we had the rare pleasure of visiting the renowned spots for which Roxbury was and is famous; not the least of which was the towering brick chimney, standing many feet above the Bunker Hill monument, and possessing the remarkable and attractive feature of a reverberating echo unequalled in any land. Personally we inspected the old chimney, erected, we believe, by a chemical manufacturing company, many years ago, to carry off the deleterious gases from its giddy peak. Few of the Highlanders are aware that this lonely and elevated brick pillar produces a multiplicity of echoes, answering the human voice with all the distinctness and volume of sound as uttered by the visitor who speaks within its dark and dismal confines. The chimney stands on a rocky base, in the centre of a field of ruins, a few rods from the well-travelled streets of Roxbury. Upon entering one of the doorways, the first echo is heard from the noise of advancing steps, and grows louder and louder as the visitor advances, until the repeating echoes startle and astonish one beyond conception. We recovered our surprise upon first entering, and called out in a loud tone, "Got any coins here?" The echoes came instantly, but in a sepulchral tone, in equally distinct and loud responses, and we retreated with our question dinging in our ears in rapid succession, at least a half dozen times, to our great and increasing wonder. To our readers, who chance to visit Boston, we say, earnestly and emphatically, go and see the echoing chimney. Call on Mr. Woodward for the direction, and he will point out to you this wonder. After a long lingering look at the big chimney, and in the language of Hibernia, it takes several looks to see the top of it, we jumped into Mr. W.'s beautiful phaeton, and behind a two-forty pony, soon arrived at and examined other curious and interesting structures, among which were the Eustis and Bartlett estates, the Shaw building and grounds, and other historical localities.

In this public manner we take occasion to thank Mr. Woodward for his kindness, and, in no spirit of flattery, would say that he is the life and soul of Boston Highlands; buying and building properties; working night and day, like a Trojan; yet he is never depressed, never discouraged, pushing and driving, forcing business to come to him; cutting public streets, filling up marshes, and making the ruined and overflowed lands of his neighborhood to bloom like gardens of Eden.

From Boston we next visited Lowell, spent a few hours among

the coin collectors, and returning visited all the noted numismatists of the Tri-mountain city, picked up some rare and fine coins, and departed for home, having travelled two thousand miles within a fortnight, and accomplished a coin trade, in buying and selling, of an equal amount of dollars. In a few months—perhaps weeks—we shall start on the same tour adding Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and hope to interest our readers with a few notes picked up by the wayside.

E. M., JR.

OBVERSE AND REVERSE SUPERSCRPTIONS.

*Reported literally to the letter.*

BY E. MASON, JR.

Hold! do not break this pretty seal:  
 What! would you calmly, coolly steal?  
 Avaunt! touch not a single cent—

Let her kindly stay, where other letters lay—  
 How proud to raise your head and say, "let her went."

*(Laconic.)*

2 A. P. M.

Let her B, let him C  
 'The on S. T. in Sam's M. B.  
 I O P, A trifling fee  
 For services as A M. D.

*(Pathetic.)*

This letter's fat,  
 The sender poor;  
 Touch it not  
 Or death is sure.

*(Comic.)*

Not a dern'd cent is under this yaller cover hid;  
 Yer mought think so, stranger, but, if yer did,  
 Yer wouldn't be such an onery scamp,  
 Ter steal a cussed little 3 cent stamp.

*(Sarcastic.)*

All perfumed and sealed, forward to Miss Nellie Centor,  
 From Jessie Dwight, the rat and mouse trap inventor;  
 I've sent her this that she may sound the knell  
 To all the hopes of a certain Mr. Bell;  
 Who tried, with his little red head and puffed up belly,  
 To ring himself in upon my sweet little Nellie—  
 Handle it tenderly, deliver it with care—  
 In the State of Pennsylvania, Montgomery Square.

UNIQUE GREENBACK.

Major C. P. Nichols, of Springfield, Massachusetts, has the first United States five dollar note (No. 1, Series A), issued by the government.

## COIN CABINETS.

*With cost and dimensions; also the best method of preserving coins and medals, from observation and experience of eleven years, with a description of some of the best cabinets in the United States.*

BY E. M., JR.

It is an important question with collectors how best to preserve coins and medals; and this question has puzzled many of our most noted numismatists. One individual will advocate wrapping in paper; another will insist that coins and medals should be tightly secured in paper boxes excluding the air; a third wishes to admire his pieces under pin heads enclosed in a frame, covered with a plate of glass; a fourth prefers an upright case with inclined shelves; a fifth insists that perforated drawers, or shelves of pasteboard or wood serves the purpose exactly; a sixth is attached to the neat little cabinet of rose-wood, black walnut or mahogany, with a dozen drawers lined with flashy colored velvet or velveteen, having folding doors, and panelled in all the beauty and perfectness of the cabinet maker's skill; a seventh insists that the large closet-like cabinets are every way preferable; an eighth individual uses cotton, another wool, another cloth and so on *ad infinitum*. We propose first to speak of the different cabinets or cases most generally used by experts, treating of dimensions, quantities and cost; secondly, methods of preserving coins from dampness, frost, gases and other deleterious and objectionable influences which injure and depreciate the value of fine pieces.

(To be continued.)

## A VERY RARE COIN.

Alfred S. Robinson, of this city, has an exceedingly rare American piece. The coin is pure silver; on the obverse are representations of the communion service, cup, plate, table, etc. "This do in remembrance of me;" on the reverse, the burning bush, "Nec tamen consumeatur." "yet nevertheless it shall not be consumed." Upon the edge, "Presbyterian church, Charleston, S. C., 1800." Mr. Robinson has traced the history of the specimen, which was purchased by him of a well known citizen of Hartford, now located in Montreal. It was found by a Union soldier among a lot of buried silver of various kinds, and was undoubtedly presented as a token of membership of that particular church, all of whom now are "each in his narrow cell forever laid."—*Hartford Courant*.

[There is a duplicate of the above piece in this city.—*Ed.*]

## RARE ENGLISH TOKEN.

Mr. L. G. Parmelee, of Boston, has a copper token apparently connected with America, issued by a Mr. Spence, of London, very rare. Obv.—View of a deserted village and church in the distance. "One only Master grasps the whole Domain, 1795." Rev.—an American Indian. "If Rents I once consent to pay, my Liberty is past away."

## CRAZY BAILEY.

We take, from a city paper, the following account of the trial of George Shutcliff, alias Bailey, to whom we alluded in a former number as having robbed our distinguished philanthropist, Prof. Wagner:

**PRECIOUS STONES**—George Shutcliff was charged with the larceny of a number of precious stones and other valuables, estimated to be worth one thousand dollars, the property of Professor Wagner, principal of the Wagner Free Institute of Science, Seventeenth Street and Montgomery Avenue.

The prosecutor testified that the accused called at his place on the 21st of September and represented himself to be a geological student, but, being sick, he (Shutcliff) left; on the 25th inst., he again called, in company with another man, and was shown by him (Wagner) the cabinet of precious stones, gold ore, and other valuables.

The loss was not discovered until about two weeks after the second visit. The prisoner said he was a son of a member of Parliament, that his father represented Warwickshire, England, and that the income that he derived from England was thirty-three hundred pounds per annum.

The defence admitted the larceny, but argued that the prisoner is not accountable for what he says or does.

Mr. Bailey, father of the accused, testified that his son's name is George William Bailey, and that for some time he has had considerable difficulty with him. The articles had been sold by him, amounting to four hundred dollars, for one dollar, which he (the witness) paid back for the return of the property. He has on various occasions stolen articles, some of a very trifling character, and at one place where he had sold some of them he carried off several things, which he sold back again to the original owner.

Dr. Wm. Brown was called to the stand, and testified that, from what he had seen of the accused and heard him say, he was satisfied that he is not of sound mind. Several other physicians were called, who all expressed the opinion that the defendant is not of sound mind. Verdict, not guilty on the ground of insanity.

## CURIOS BUTTON.

J. W. Haseltine, of this city, has recently picked up an old brass button, well worn and rusty, about the size of a United States half cent, having the monogram G. R., crowned, in centre; above it, in a curved line, the legend LIBERTY; below the monogram, the motto "RANGER." Is it a Georgia Button? Was there in ante-revolutionary times an English military or militia company known as the Georgia Rangers? If so, why was the legend "Liberty" added? as the button appears of English make. Perhaps the monogram is that of George III, and signifies "Georgius Rex." Who knows?

## 1792 WASHINGTON HALF DOLLAR.

Mr. Strobridge, who corrected the manuscript of the catalogue of the Clay cabinet, in a note to lot 997 A, page 68 of the catalogue, puts the question: "Is there another with *edge milled*?"—alluding to the half dollar in copper of 1792, having, we believe, an *engrailed*, not "*milled*" edge. We answer, Yes, there is another of this variety in possession of Prof. Charles Anthon, of New York, superior in condition to Dr. Clay's piece.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

OSHKOSH, Wis., November 4, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON &amp; CO., PHILADELPHIA.

GENTS: Yours of the 1st inst., requesting me to give you a short article upon the two varieties of American cents, now in my cabinet, has been received. And if any information I can give will lead to throw any light upon the interesting study of numismatics it will be gladly furnished.

The first is dated 1802. It has a break in the obverse die, commencing on the right side, about midway between the word "Liberty" and the date, from thence it reaches nearly to the head, and there making an acute angle, turns upwards barely escaping the letter "y" and finally terminating at the centre of the letter "e" in liberty. On the reverse there are no stems to the wreath and I do not remember of having before heard of a cent of this date where both varieties were combined in one.

The next cent is dated 1803, and this also has no stems to wreath on the reverse. The obverse is the same as in the common variety.

W. P. C.

PHILADELPHIA, November 30, 1871.

DEAR SIR: Would not an article, or series of articles, describing the best methods of constructing cabinets, at *moderate expense*, prove both interesting and instructive to many of the readers of your journal?

To those just commencing the study of numismatics it would prove especially valuable.

If properly encouraged to do so, many collectors might be willing to furnish descriptions of their cabinets and methods of arranging their collections.

Expressing a hope that this matter may be referred to in the next number of the magazine, I am,

Very truly, yours,

F.

[We have commenced the article in the present number.—Ed.]

## THE END OF VOLUME FIVE.

With this number we close the fifth volume of our magazine, filled with gratitude for the kind patronage extended towards our humble efforts to furnish varied and interesting matter for all those engaged in forming cabinets of coins and stamps. The magazine stands, with all its good and bad qualities, an epitome of the coin and stamp trade for the past five years—it speaks for itself, and, without indulging in any rash promises for the future, we tender our subscribers the thanks of a warm heart with the best wishes for their prosperity, and trust that Christmas will find them in the enjoyment of every luxury, including a full bound set of this journal. A happy New Year to all, and an early remittance of the usual subscription price is our closing wish and request.

THE CLAY COIN SALE.

The momentous day approaches when the beautiful collection of coins and medals formed by Dr. Charles Clay, of Manchester, England, will be brought to the hammer, and the pieces scattered far and wide never again to be united in one charming whole. Great is the pity that our poor country cannot command sufficient spare change to buy this remarkable collection, which would improve greatly the inferior cabinet of the United States coins now reposing in all their horrid deformity in the coin and medal department in the United States Mint. In point of interest, as well as rarity of the pieces, Dr. Clay's cabinet is fully equal to the Mickley collection; and yet there are many trashy pieces in the former, while as a whole—speaking in reference to series—the latter excelled. The beauty and interest in the Clay cabinet is confined to cents of early dates, the Colonial and Washington Pieces, and in all these points Clay excels Mickley. A full account of this sale will appear in the January number of our journal, together with the prices realized for the choice pieces. A limited number of catalogues prevented us from giving each of our patrons a copy. The Clay sale will commence at 5 P. M. on Tuesday, December 5, and continue three days.

THANKS TO EDWARD COGAN.

It pleases us always to receive a kindness, and pleases us more to have an unsolicited favor from a rival in the coin trade. Edward Cogan, the well known and highly respected dealer, inserted our address in his recently issued circulars, concerning the Clay coin sale, to come off on the 5th, 6th and 7th of this month. We appreciate this courtesy, and regret the omission of Mr. Cogan's address in our circular on the same subject, in print too early to make the addition. This kindness will be long remembered and treasured up as another mark of esteem and confidence on the part of a distinguished brother in the numismatic trade.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

Five numbers of this entertaining monthly magazine are on our table, from Harlow E. Woodward, publisher, Boston. Our patrons should send for a specimen copy or, what is better, subscribe for the work. Only one dollar per annum, and contains fifty-two pages. See advertisement on cover.

CLAY COIN SALE.

By request of many of our subscribers, we shall commence, in the next volume of our journal, the publication of the Clay catalogue, with the prices realized at the sale affixed to each lot, omitting the common foreign and miscellaneous pieces of but little value or interest to collectors. Subscribers should be particular to send in their names early, as we will not promise to furnish back numbers after the close of January, 1872.



## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. J. P., NEW HAVEN.—Many warm thanks for your favors. The 1830 cent you presented us with will be noticed in a future number.

S. T., MILWAUKEE.—There is an 1825 U. S. half dollar over 1824. Varieties of the silver coinage of the United States are now commanding attention among collectors. Report every variety you can discover.

W. P. C. OSHKOSH.—Your half eagle is scarce, rarely found in extra fine condition. Worth \$10. Name the Indian relics and lowest price for lot. Glad to know you took the first prize at the Northern Wisconsin Fair for best collection of coins, etc. Energy meets its own reward.

T. W. T., VINEYARD HAVEN.—Do not at present wish to purchase. May negotiate with you after Clay sale.

R. C., WASHINGTON.—All right now. The fine pieces sold. Dime of 1811 over 1809 rare. We have a fine one.

E. B. T., WATKINS.—No list yet issued of Elliott sale in New York, or sale of September 13, in Philadelphia.

J. P., BOSTON HIGHLANDS.—Did not succeed in finding you while we were in Boston. Will see you soon.

A. V., MALDEN.—Twenty-five cents paid for January numbers of 1871. Do not want the others.

BIDDERS EVERYWHERE.—Telegraph additional bids on Clay sale to Mason & Co., in care of George A. Leavitt & Co., auctioneers, New York.

S. R. P., CAMBRIDGE.—“Crosby did not write the personal attacks on your magazine in the Boston publication signed ‘C.’ C. Chaplin, of Boston, was the author.” Thank you for the information. Mr. Chaplin was the party who catalogued Trifet’s sale, and now we know who owes “that two dollars,” as Trifet disclaims having had any property in the sale, but was merely the monkey who pulled the chestnuts out of the fire for “C.”

T. S. P., IOWA CITY.—Regret we cannot supply the numbers you require. Amount due on sale November 7 received.

R. W. McL., MONTREAL.—Have no pieces you require at present. Sent the November number.

J. B. C., PROVIDENCE.—Account square.

M. L., WOBURN.—Subscription for 1872 received.

J. V. P., CLEVELAND.—Account square.

AMBIGUOUS.—Lot 72, Clay catalogue, is described by Dr. Clay as “perfectly unique.” Does this term signify that other *uniques* in the catalogue are *nearly unique*, *somewhat unique* or *mostly unique*?

“C. O. D.”

These ominous initials will accompany all packages of purchases made at the Clay coin sale for distant bidders. This course is rendered necessary, upon this occasion, on account of the large amount of funds required by us at this sale.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

About the middle of the present month, we shall make a second tour of New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts; also, visiting central portions of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Patrons wishing to buy or sell coins will please designate the kind and condition, enclosing schedule of trains arriving and leaving their localities. Write at once.

INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be under many obligations to those of our subscribers having coin cases or cabinets if they will kindly send a description of the same in time for our next issue.

COGAN'S NEW YORK COIN SALE.

The sale of Mr Cogan's shop stock took place at Bangs, Mervin & Co's., 694 Broadway, on November 13, and was an entire success.

BLACK LIST.

Amounts due Mason & Co. for coins. Notifications mailed in each instance and unnoticed.

C. A. B., Granville, Washington County, N. Y. \$5.

R. S., Quincy, Ill. \$15.

L. M. N., New York. \$7 75.

P. A. R.,\* Chicago, Ill. \$23 50.

W. C. N., Richmond, Va. \$1 50.

T. D., JR., Castine, Me. \$5 60.

S., Montreal, Canada. \$5.

\*If Mr. R. was burned out at the recent conflagration we will send him a receipt in full.

(To be continued.)

Philatelic Department.

ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued.)

The postal stamps of the United States were authorized by act of Congress of March 3, 1847. Two values only were introduced, viz.: ten cents and five cents, bearing respectively the portraits of Washington and Franklin. They were finely engraved by Rawdon, Hatch, Wright and Edson, of New York, and were issued July 1, of that year. They remained current until July 1, 1851, when, in consequence of an alteration in the rates, they were withdrawn, and replaced by three new values, viz.: one cent, three cents and twelve cents. In May, 1855, a ten cent stamp was issued, and subsequently, at intermediate dates, a complete series, ranging in value from five to ninety cents. They were manufactured by Toppan, Carpenter & Co., of New York, and remained current until the breaking out of

the great rebellion in 1861, when, it being considered desirable to change the issue of stamps, a contract for the manufacture of the United States postage stamps was awarded to the National Bank Note Company of New York. A new set of stamps was then prepared and issued August 14 of that year, with two new values, the designs being similar to the preceding issue. The entire set still pass current. In March, 1869, the late current series, corresponding in value to the preceding issue, was, by direction of the government, also prepared by the National Bank Note Company; but the public feeling being wholly against them, on account of their small size, the government, in 1870, authorized the company to prepare a new set, and in the spring of 1870 (April) they produced an elaborate series. The portraits upon them are mostly engraved from standard marbles, and are wonderfully truthful in every detail. They are of the following denominations and descriptions:

Cents,	Profile Bust after	Color.
1. Franklin, . . .	Rubricht, . . .	Imperial blue.
2. Jackson, . . .	Powers, . . .	Velvet brown.
3. Washington, . . .	Houdon, . . .	Milori green.
6. Lincoln, . . .	Volk, . . .	Cochineal red.
10. Jefferson, . . .	Powers' Statue, . . .	Chocolate.
12. Clay, . . .	Hart, . . .	Purple.
15. Webster, . . .	Clevenger, . . .	Orange.
24. Scott, . . .	Coffe, . . .	Pure purple.
30. Hamilton, . . .	Corrachi, . . .	Black.
90. Perry, . . .	Wolcott's Medallion,	Carmine.

To which has lately been added, for German postal service, a seven cent stamp, bearing a portrait of the late Secretary of War, Stanton, photographed from life—color, red. Of these stamps the National Bank Note Company has furnished the government the past year with nearly five hundred millions. The Post Office Department has received the congratulations of several foreign governments upon the beauty and workmanship of this issue of stamps. They are undoubtedly the finest set of stamps in the world, and for delicacy of engraving, symmetry of design and general contour remain peerless. The United States has the honor of having used the largest stamps for postal purposes in the world, known as the "Periodical Stamps," which were used for newspapers carried outside the mails. These were furnished by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and were surface printed from steel plates, and not fine line engraving like the letter stamps. The three values—five, ten and twenty-five cents—bear respectively medallion portraits of Washington, Franklin and Lincoln. They were issued October 1, 1865, and withdrawn in February, 1869, having been used only in Chicago and Milwaukee. Stamped postal envelopes were introduced in the United States in 1853, having been authorized by act of Congress of August 31, 1852. There have been several issues, all of which were engraved by Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., of New York.

Quite recently, the contract for the manufacture of United States stamped envelopes was awarded to G. A. Reay, of New York, who manufactures those now in use.

(To be continued.)

NEW ISSUES.

**RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Pskoff.**—Our St. Petersburg correspondent sends us a stamp issued July 10 last, for the Pskoff circuit (in the government of the same name). It has rather a bizarre appearance, like all the lozenge shaped stamps, but is pretty well engraved, and the color, a bright violet, is pleasing. This is the second stamp issued in the Pskoff province, the first being for Toropetz, and of this no specimens have yet come over.

Besides the foregoing, the following stamps have been issued since the publication of our correspondent's list:

*Ekaterinoslaw Government.—Mariopol Circuit.*—5 kop., black on white.

*Perm Government.—Shadrin Circuit.*—5 kop., blue on white.

*Taurida Government.—Melitopol Circuit.*—3 kop., blue.

The Melitopol stamp replaces one of the same value printed in red, and bearing as device the imperial mantle and arms with inscription in oval frame. That device having been objected to as making the stamp look too much like the government issue, it has been changed. Our correspondent had not seen any of the stamps he refers to, and therefore is unable to give any further details respecting them.

We are pleased to be able to give three other locals already described, namely:

*Egorieff.*—Transverse lozenge shaped; inscription in frame, CIRCUIT OFFICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF EGORIEFF; in centre, RURAL POSTAGE STAMP, and the value, 3 kop., blue and black. The two colors, though of the same value, show certain differences in the details of the design.

*Skopin.*—3 kop., blue.

*Sapojok.*—5 kop., black.

These two stamps, together with the Egorieff labels, all belong to the Riasan government, but the perfect independence of each other felt by the authorities of the respective "circuits" is shown in the dissimilarity of designs. There is evidently no concerted action with regard to the issue of these local stamps; in fact, they exemplify in a special manner the working of the decentralising principle.

**GERMAN EMPIRE.**—The new stamps will appear for certain on New Year Day next; they will have for design the imperial eagle, in white relief, in centre, and will be inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST and value. One of our correspondents informs us they will be used in every part of Germany, except Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and the values will be as follows: *Adhesives*— $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 5 groschen, 1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer. *Envelopes*—1 groschen, 3 kreuzer. *Wrappers*— $\frac{1}{3}$  groschen, 1 kreuzer.

**RUSSIA.**—We have information from St. Petersburg that postal cards are shortly to be issued and are to be of two values—3 kop., for town delivery, and 5 kop., for cards from town to town throughout the empire. There is also to be a new adhesive imperial postage stamp, value 25 kop., for registered letters throughout Russia. These nov. lies will probably make their appearance with the New Year.

**FRANCE.**—A new "chiffre-taxe" stamp, value 25 centimes, has appeared. Design and color remain unchanged, nor has even the improvement of perforation been introduced—the numeral alone is altered. This 25 centime stamp represents the postage claimable on local letters, but it is said that 40 and 60 centime labels will also be issued—the former for unpaid letters from town to town, the second for double weight letters, either local or general; and the errors arising out of the present confusion of colors in the ordinary stamps, may render the *chiffres-taxe* indispensable. The department seems to have foreseen the difficulties which must result from the new 15 centime, brown, and 25 centime, blue, being in the same colors as the old values.

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**—The fashion of issuing stamps of high value seems to be spreading through our colonies, and may therefore be meeting, in stereotyped phrase, "a want long felt." The Cape has just followed it in emitting a five shilling stamp of the same size and design as the other values, but of an orange color. Some difference in size will probably be found desirable in order to better distinguish this expensive label.

**TURKEY.**—According to our Brussels contemporary, the 10 paras, stone, is not an unpaid letter stamp, but forms one of the regular postage stamp series, and is used concurrently with the 10 paras, mauve, which it will probably replace when the stock of the latter is exhausted.

**HONG KONG.**—The 30 cent stamp is now printed in mauve, in lieu of vermilion, a fact which seems to point to the retirement of the 18 cents.

**LUXEMBURG.**—The 10 centimes stamp of this duchy is now printed in mauve instead of the lilac shade.

**NEW GRENADA.**—*Tolima.*—A 10 centavos stamp exists for this state, which we hope to describe next month.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

**HUNGARY.**—We understand that the 15 kreuzer of the new series has come into circulation, the 25 kreuzer being alone now wanting.

**SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**—We have received some new varieties of envelopes from this republic. They are hand stamped, with the two types previously described on white paper: POTCPESTROOM and ZUID AFRICA in circle, Z. A. R. 69 and value (6d.) in centre. The varieties in question have black impressions on sand-colored rather coarse paper; the value added in writing both in red and black ink. Size, 6 by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The sixpenny adhesive now comes over of an indigo blue.—*Philatelist.*

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

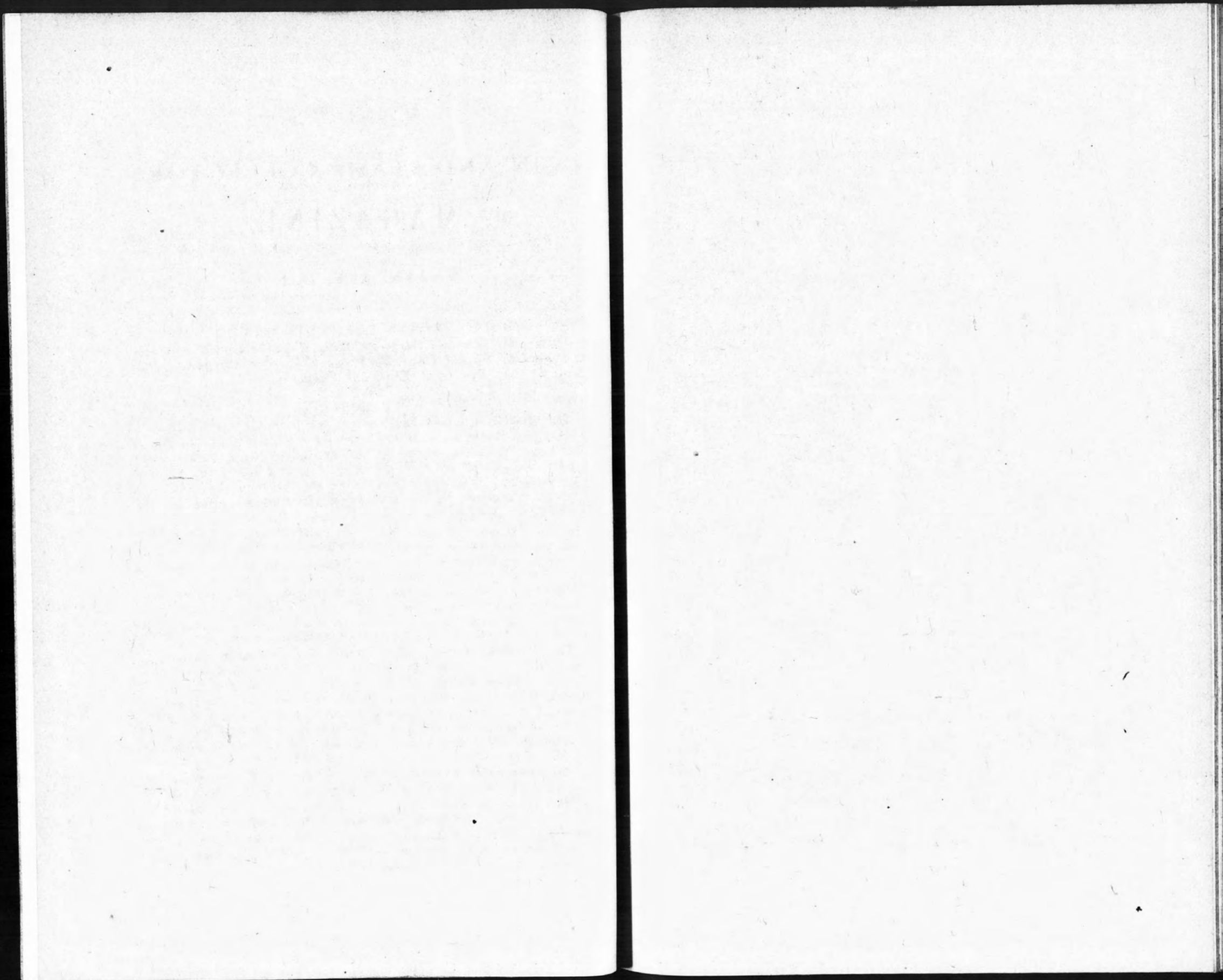
JANUARY, 1871.

No. 1.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.



# THE PACKER CABINET

OF

FOREIGN AND AMERICAN

GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER COINS, MEDALS, ETC.,

WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC SALE ABOUT THE

MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY,

AT THE SALES ROOMS OF

BANGS, MERWIN & CO.,

Nos. 594 AND 596 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

This collection includes many choice American and Foreign Coins and Medals, embracing series of American Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars, Dimes, Half Dimes, Colonials, Washington Pieces, Pattern Pieces, Cents and Half Cents; fine Gold Coins. Silver and Copper Medals; also, Silver Coins of England, France, Germany, Saxony, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Hungary, Bohemia, Bremen, Hamburg, &c. A fine assortment of Tetrachms, Imperial Gold and Silver Coins, Roman Family Coins, &c.

Catalogues will be ready about the 15th inst., and supplied by Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York, and Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

## FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different, . . . . .	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition, . . . . .	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## UNITED STATES PROOF SETS.

Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859, . . . . .	\$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860, . . . . .	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each, . . . . .	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870, . . . . .	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows:

Priced Catalogue, . . . . .	\$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue, . . . . .	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for \$2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

☞ Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.



MASON'S  
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Vol. 5.

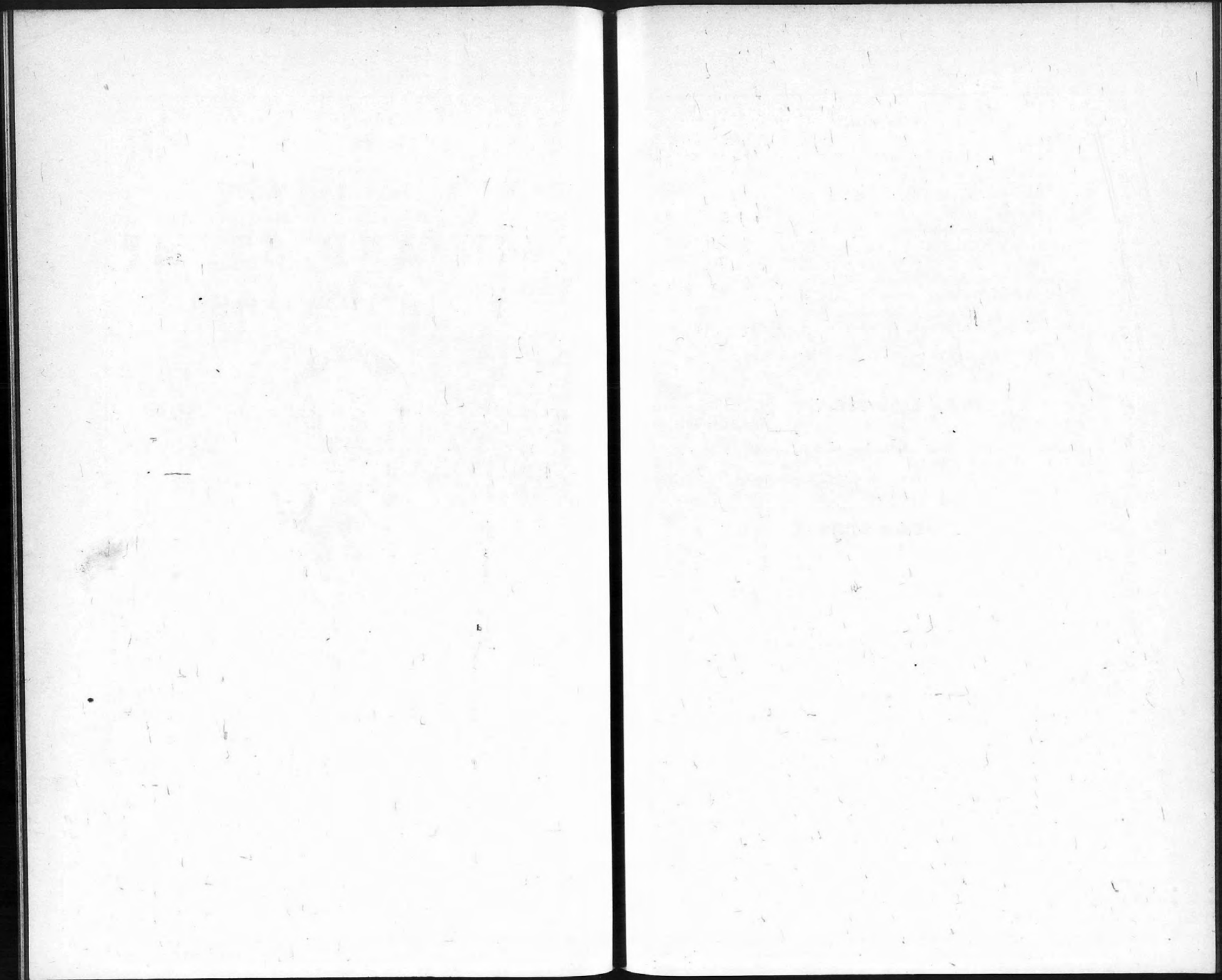
FEBRUARY, 1871.

No. 2.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.



## COIN SALE.

### SEVERAL COLLECTIONS

OF

### SILVER AND COPPER FOREIGN AND AMERICAN COINS AND MEDALS;

INCLUDING A FEW RARE AND VALUABLE COINS IN PRIVATE HANDS,  
TO BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC SALE ON

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 1871,

AT THE

BOOK TRADE SALES ROOMS OF LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.,  
CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK.

SALE TO COMMENCE AT 5 P. M.

Coins on exhibition at 10 A. M. each day of sale. Bids will be received  
by

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### PROOF SETS FOR 1871.

Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive; 10 pieces; brilliant proofs; per  
set, \$4 50.

Small Proof Sets—Five Cents, Three Cents, Two Cents and One Cent;  
per set, 25 cents. Postage free.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different, . . . . .	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition, . . . . .	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859, . . . . .	\$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860, . . . . .	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each, . . . . .	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870, . . . . .	4 50.

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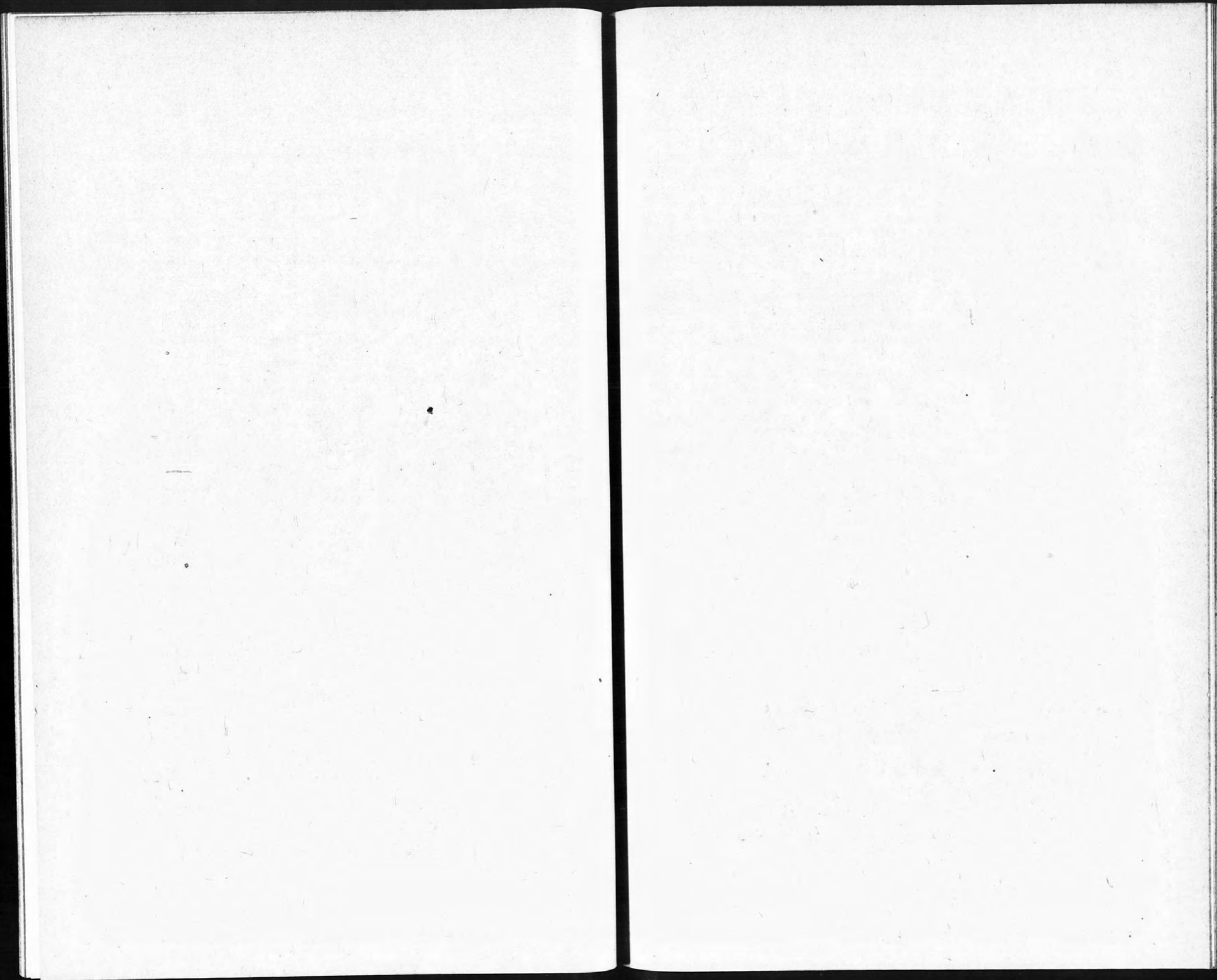
MARCH, 1871.

No. 3.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*



### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700 ; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns ; old dates, . . . . .	75
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 ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, . . . . .	2 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, . . . . .	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### PROOF SETS FOR 1871.

Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive ; 10 pieces ; brilliant proofs ; per set, \$4 50.

Small Proof Sets—Five Cents, Three Cents, Two Cents and One Cent ; per set, 25 cents. Postage free.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different, . . . . .	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition, . . . . .	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860, . . . . .	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each, . . . . .	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870, . . . . .	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.


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Vol. 5.

APRIL, 1871.

No. 4.

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### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700 ; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns ; old dates, . . . . .	75
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 ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, . . . . .	2 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, . . . . .	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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100 Common Coins, in good condition, . . . . .	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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English Half Crowns ; old dates, . . . . .	75
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 ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1871 ; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, . . . . .	2 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, . . . . .	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive ; 10 pieces ; brilliant proofs ; per set, \$4 50.  
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100 Selected Coins, in fine condition, . . . . .	5 00.

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
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Vol. 5.

MAY, 1871.

No. 5.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



NEW YORK CITY

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AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

NEW YORK CITY

NOV 10 1898

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## COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; 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., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## 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. Also, Harper's Weekly—photographic copy, in perfect miniature (size of a visiting card) and folded in exact appearance of the original—illustrations remarkably perfect. Price, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## 1793 CENTS.

We have received a small lot of poor 1793 cents, dates not visible, which we will sell from 25 cents to 50 cents, each, according to condition; also, a few extra chain or link '93's, at \$10, each; extra wreath '93's, \$5, each; good wreath '93's, \$2 50, \$3 and \$3 50, each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## PRINTED PRICE LISTS.

THE NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY intends to publish, from time to time, printed Price Lists of all the important coin sales that take place in the United States. These lists will be printed in a size uniform with the catalogue to which they belong, and must prove a valuable addition to the book. Should the list of prices not fill an even number of pages, the remainder will be filled with interesting numismatic information.

*Prices.*—For a catalogue of four pages, 25 cents; for a catalogue of eight pages, 50 cents.

These lists may be obtained of Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York; Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia; Henry Cook, No. 74 Friend Street, Boston, and of Charles Chaplin, Librarian of the New England Numismatic and Archæological Society, No. 14 Spring Street, Boston.

Should sufficient encouragement be given, Price Lists of former sales will be published. Collectors desiring them will please communicate with the Librarian of the Society, or as above.

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Vol. 5.

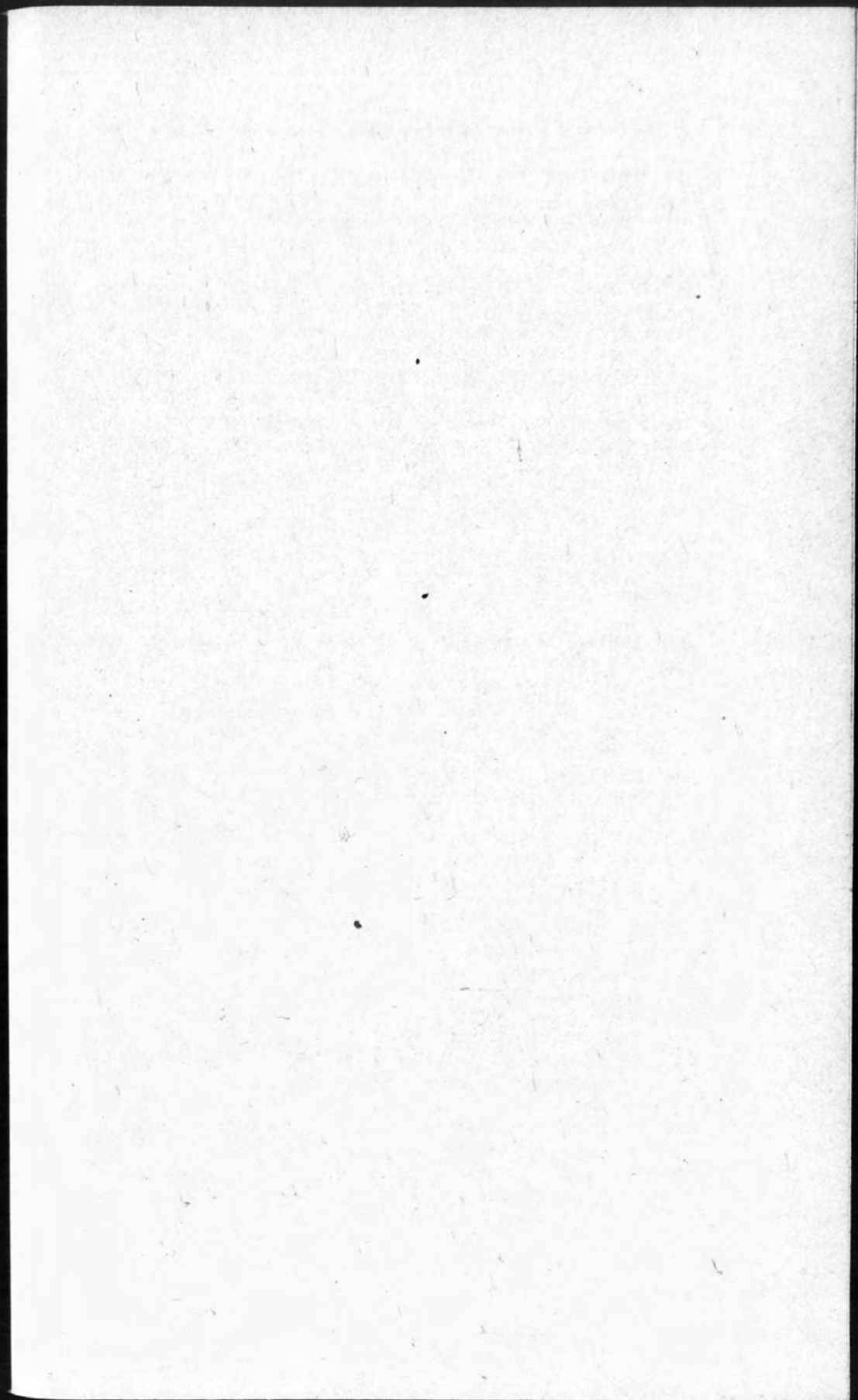
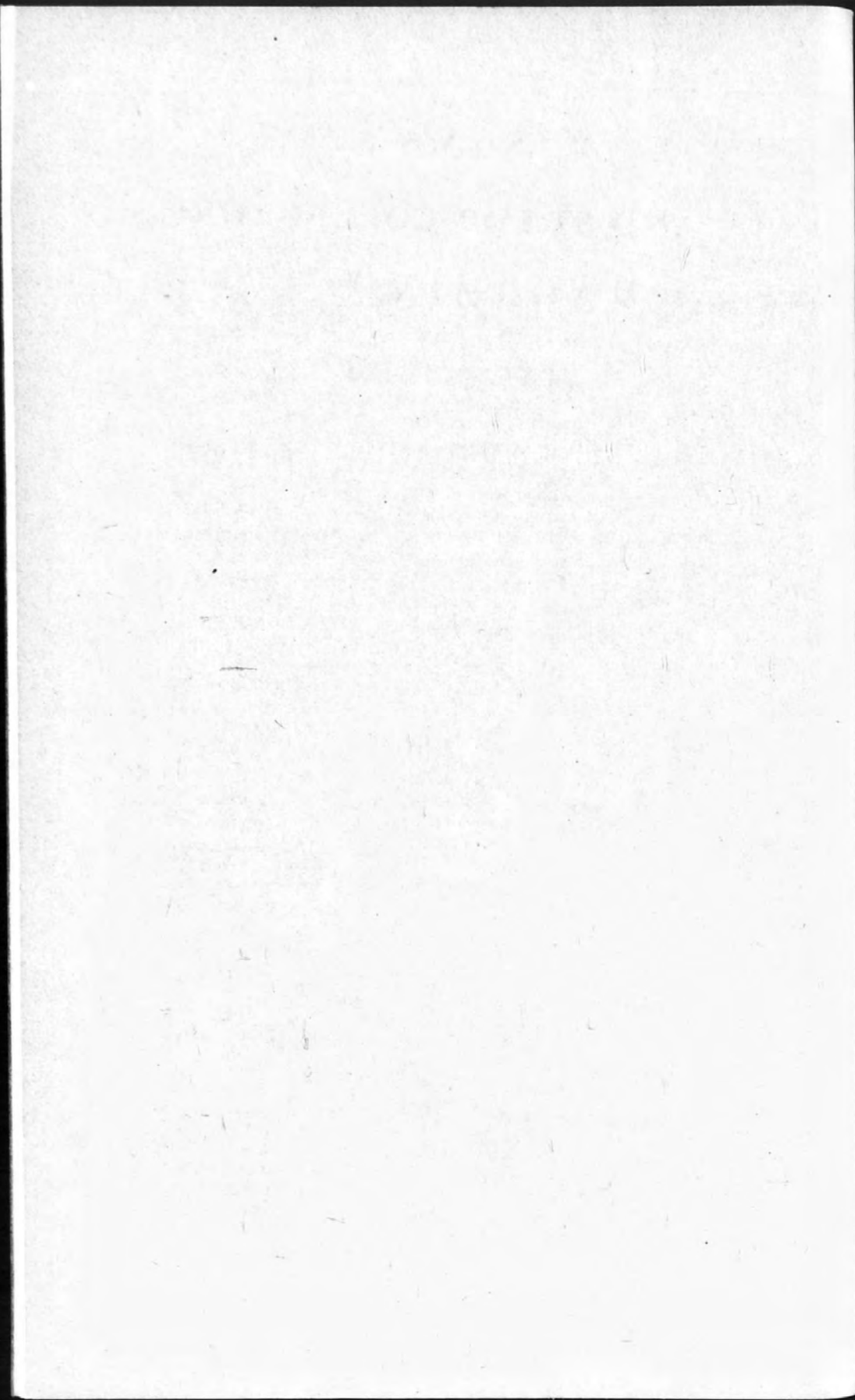
JUNE, 1871.

No. 6.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50. PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*





### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine, . . . . .	3 00
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Silver Proof Sets, 1859 to 1870, each, . . . . .	5 50

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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—MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### AMERICAN COINS.

1799 Cent, . . . . .	\$25 00
1799 Cent, good, . . . . .	5 00
1794 Dollar, . . . . .	33 00

We have lately purchased a fine collection of silver dollars, half dollars and quarter dollars, which we are offering at reasonable prices.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### CHROMOS.

We have a large stock of chromos on hand—portraits of beautiful ladies—which we will send by mail at the following prices:

Full Length Figure, . . . . .	\$ 25
Half Length Figure, . . . . .	20
Heads and Busts, enameled, . . . . .	20
Largest Size, very fine, . . . . .	40
A full set, one of each, all different and different sizes, . . . . .	90

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
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MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

JULY, 1871.

No. 7.

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BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

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English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
French Medals; bronze; proof, . . . . .	75
Greek Silver Coins, . . . . .	75
"    Brass    "    . . . . .	50
Roman Silver Coins, . . . . .	50
"    Brass    "    . . . . .	15
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United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; 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., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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### 1793 CENTS.

We have received a small lot of poor 1793 cents, dates not visible, which we will sell from 25 cents to 50 cents, each, according to condition; also, a few extra chain or link '93's, at \$10, each; extra wreath '93's, \$5, each; good wreath '93's, \$2 50, \$3 and \$3 50, each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### AMERICAN COINS.

1799 Cent, . . . . .	\$25 00
1799 Cent, good, . . . . .	5 00
1794 Dollar, . . . . .	93 00

We have lately purchased a fine collection of silver dollars, half dollars and quarter dollars, which we are offering at reasonable prices.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### CHROMOS.

We have a large stock of chromos on hand—portraits of beautiful ladies—which we will send by mail at the following prices:

Full Length Figure, . . . . .	\$ 25
Half Length Figure, . . . . .	20
Heads and Busts, enameled, . . . . .	20
Largest Size, very fine, . . . . .	40
A full set, one of each, all different and different sizes, . . . . .	90

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

JULY, 1871.

No. 7.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

IMATSU ONO HIDE

### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### KENTUCKY CENTS.

Kentucky Cent; very fine, . . . . .	\$3 00
do fine, . . . . .	2 00
do good, . . . . .	1 50
do fair, . . . . .	1 00

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MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
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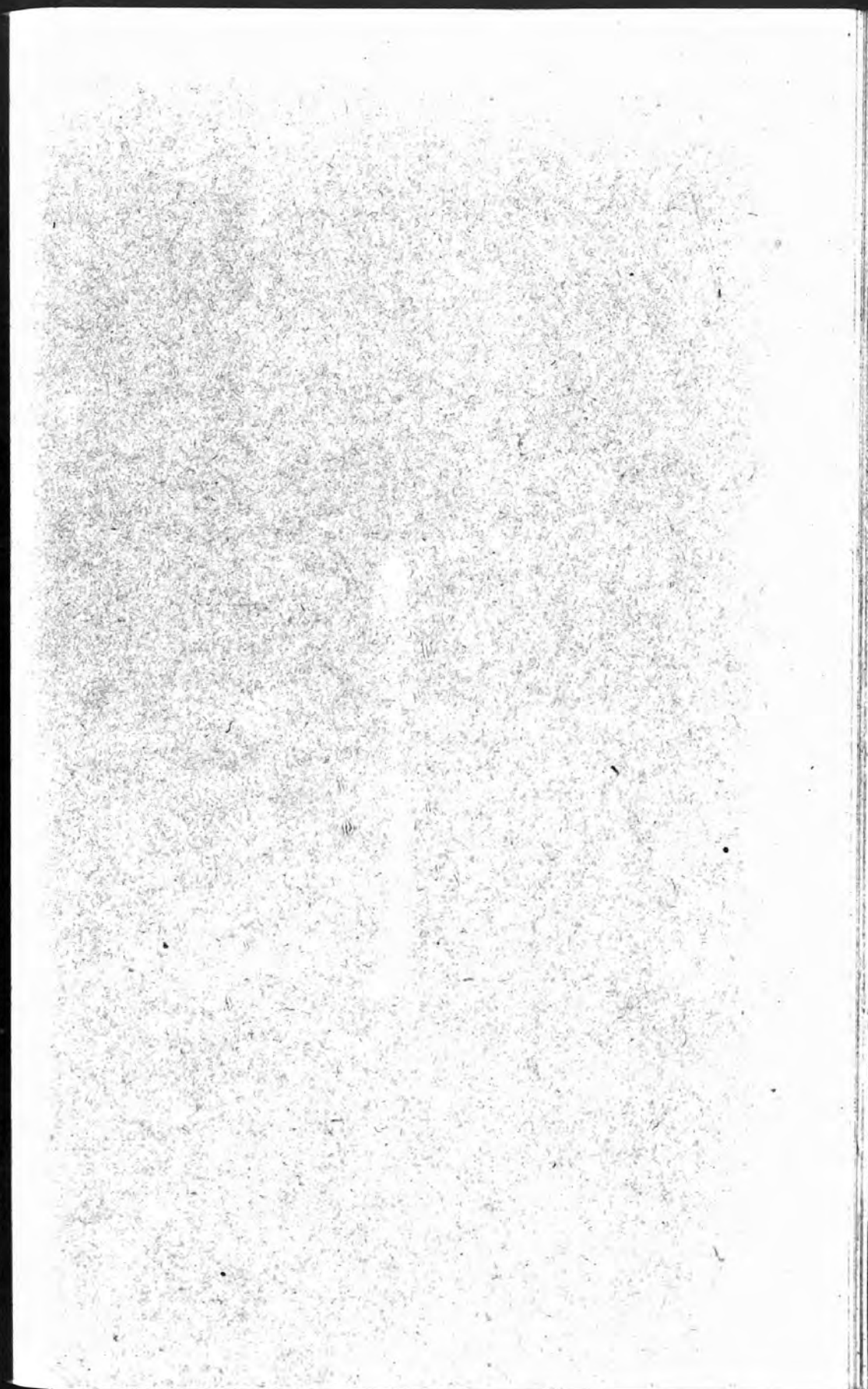
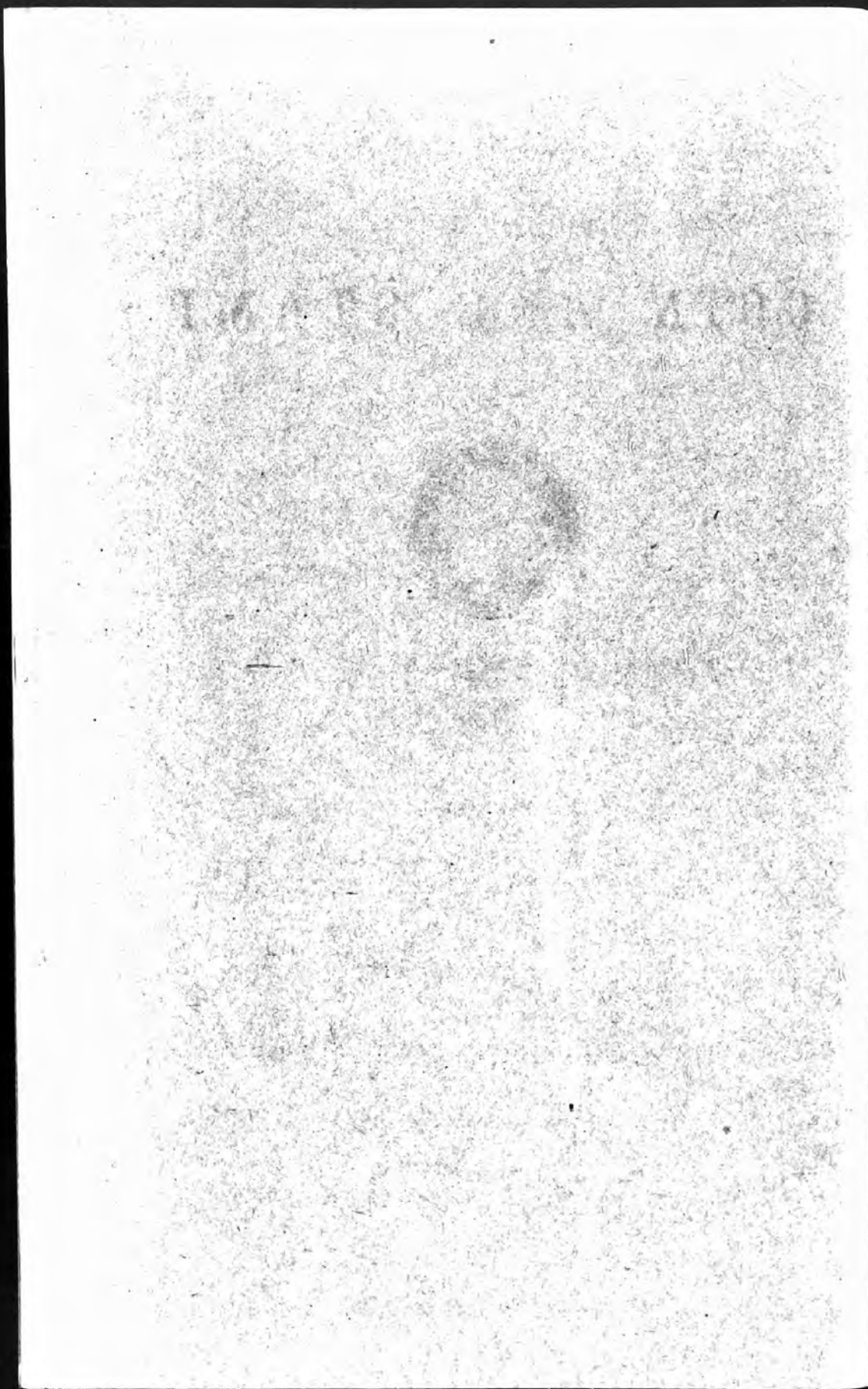
MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5. AUGUST, 1871. No. 8.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*





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English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; 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

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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Kentucky Cent; very fine, . . . . .	\$3 00
do    fine, . . . . .	2 00
do    good, . . . . .	1 50
do    fair, . . . . .	1 00

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Heads and Busts, enameled, . . . . .	20
Largest Size, very fine, . . . . .	40
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.            SEPTEMBER, 1871.            No. 9.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition,	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates,	75
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; 1871; proofs,	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs,	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine,	3 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, fine,	3 00
Silver Proof Sets, 1850 to 1870, each,	5 50

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do fair,	1 00

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MAGAZINE.

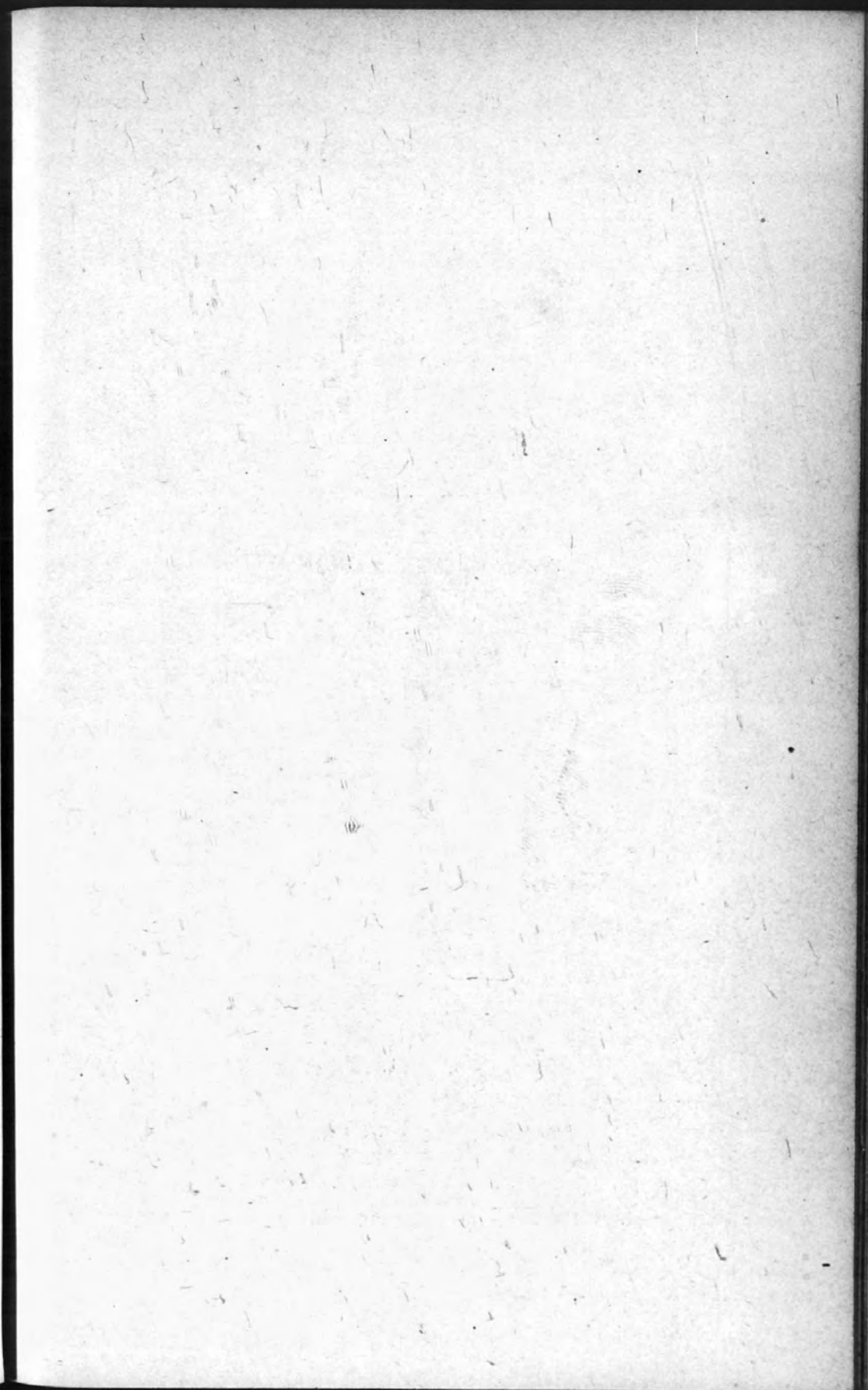
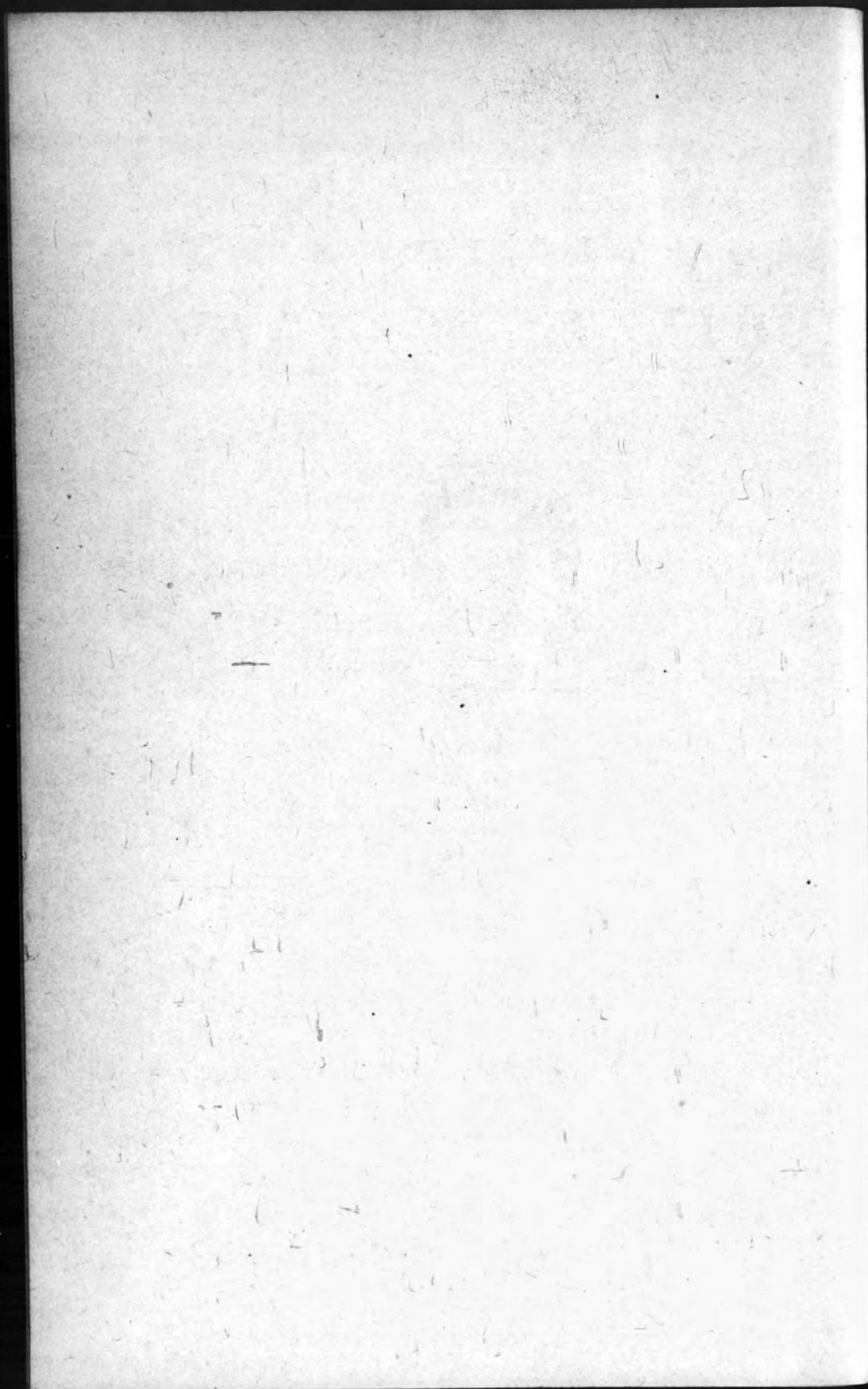
Vol. 5.      SEPTEMBER, 1871.      No. 9.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.



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English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; 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

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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

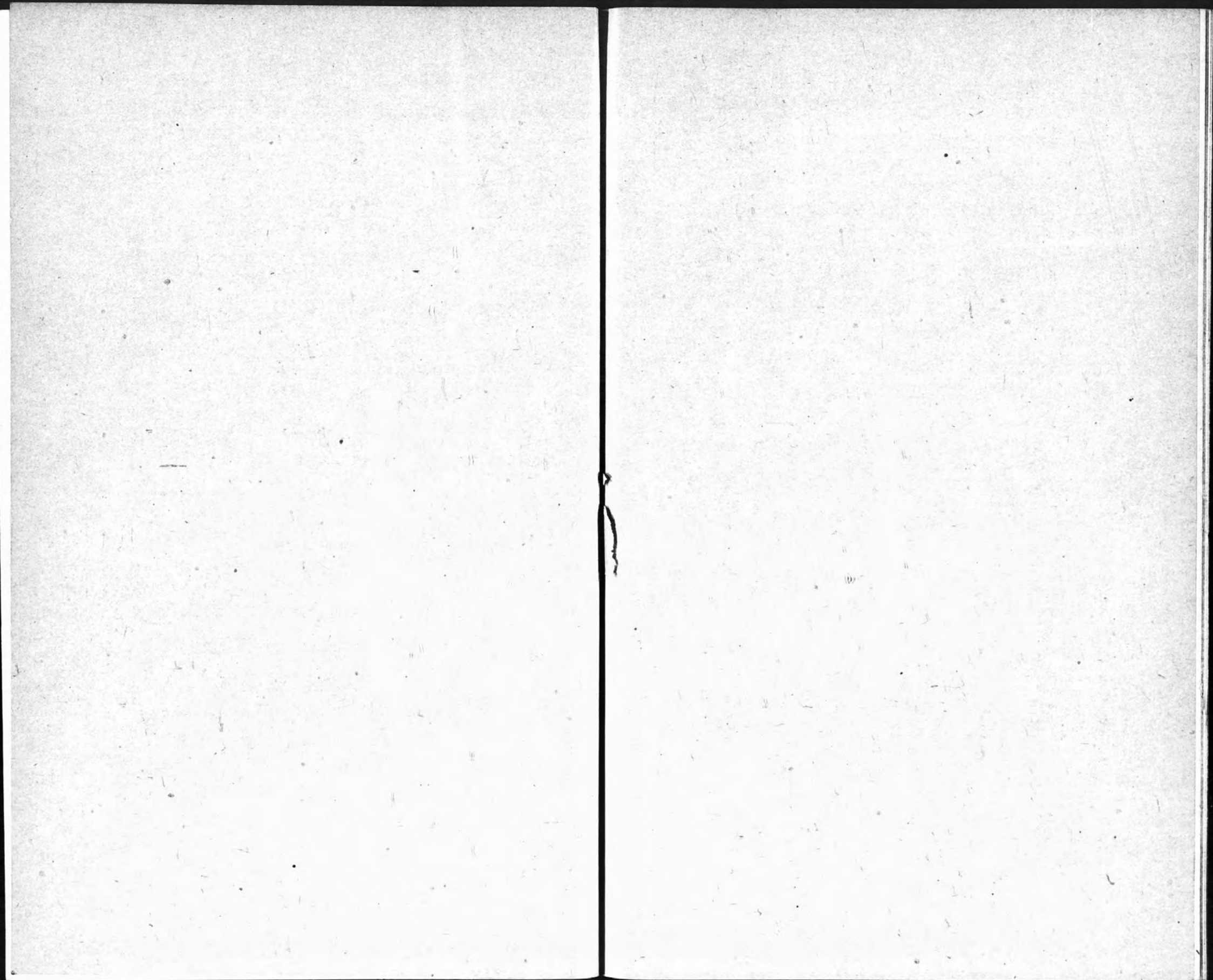
OCTOBER, 1871.

No. 10.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*





### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
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; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs, . . . . .	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine, . . . . .	3 00
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### 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., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### CONFEDERATE STAMPS.

Two Cent Stamp, head of Davis, rose, unused, each, . . . . .	10 cents
Five do do blue, do . . . . .	2 cents
Ten do do do do . . . . .	3 cents
Five do do blue, large, do . . . . .	25 cents
One do do orange, do . . . . .	25 cents

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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### THE LORD'S PRAYER.

We have a fine steel plate for framing, 24 by 30 inches, containing the Lord's Prayer in fifty-four languages. Mailed for 50 cents.

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MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

NOVEMBER, 1871.

No. 11.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*

### COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates, . . . . .	75
French Medals; bronze; proof, . . . . .	75
Greek Silver Coins, . . . . .	75
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Roman Silver Coins, . . . . .	50
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California Gold Dollar, octagon or round, . . . . .	1 75
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**MAGAZINE.**

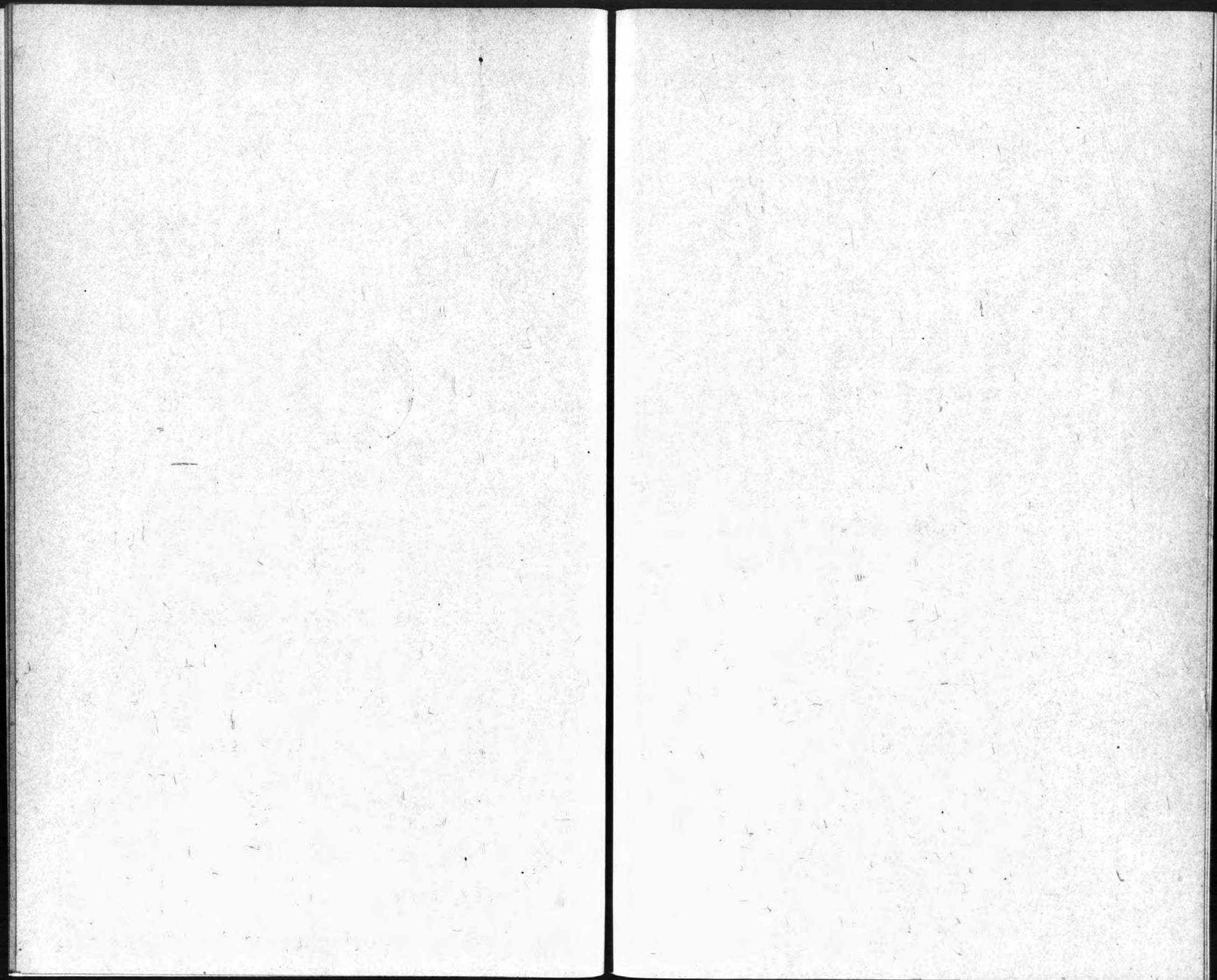
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MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

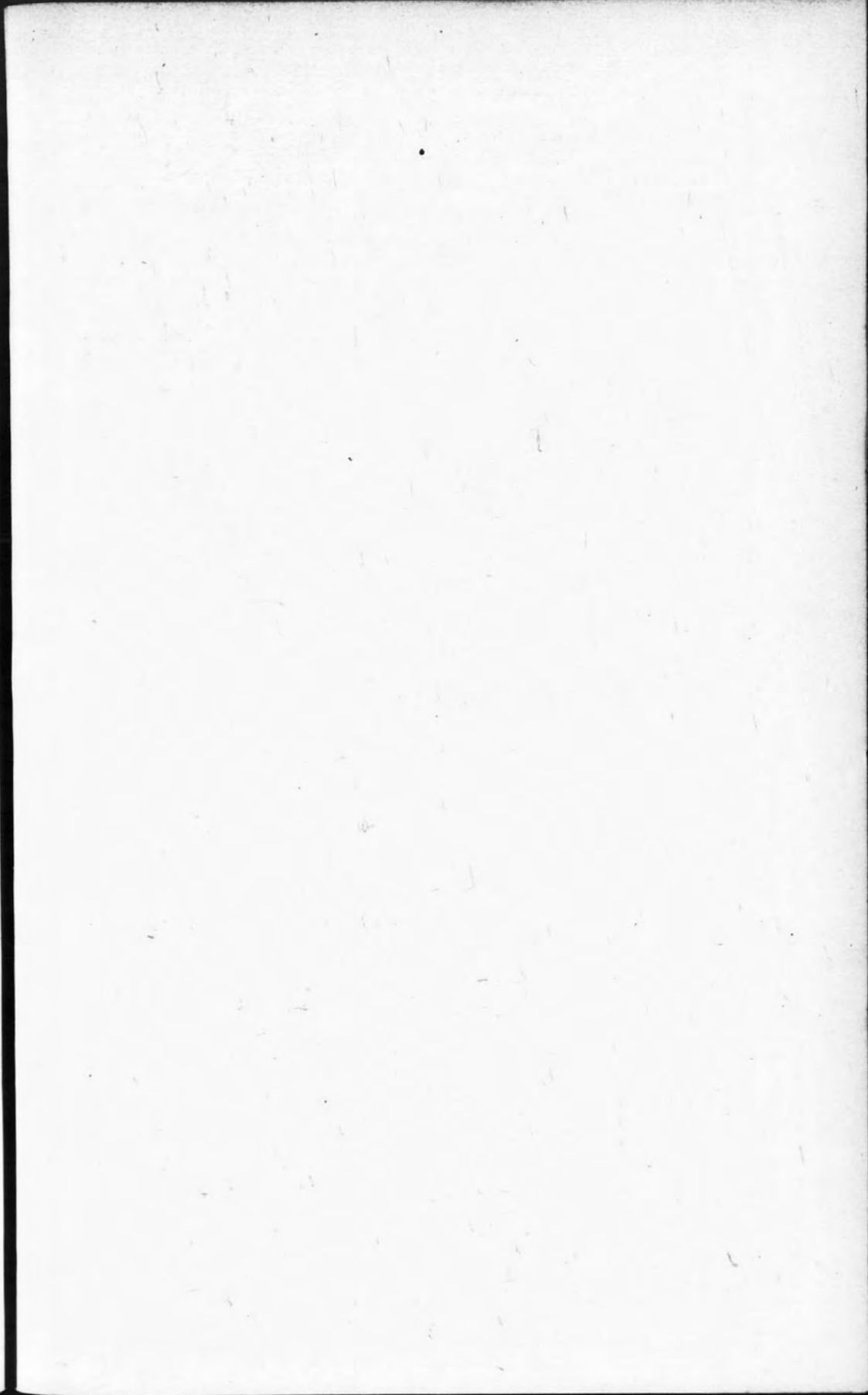
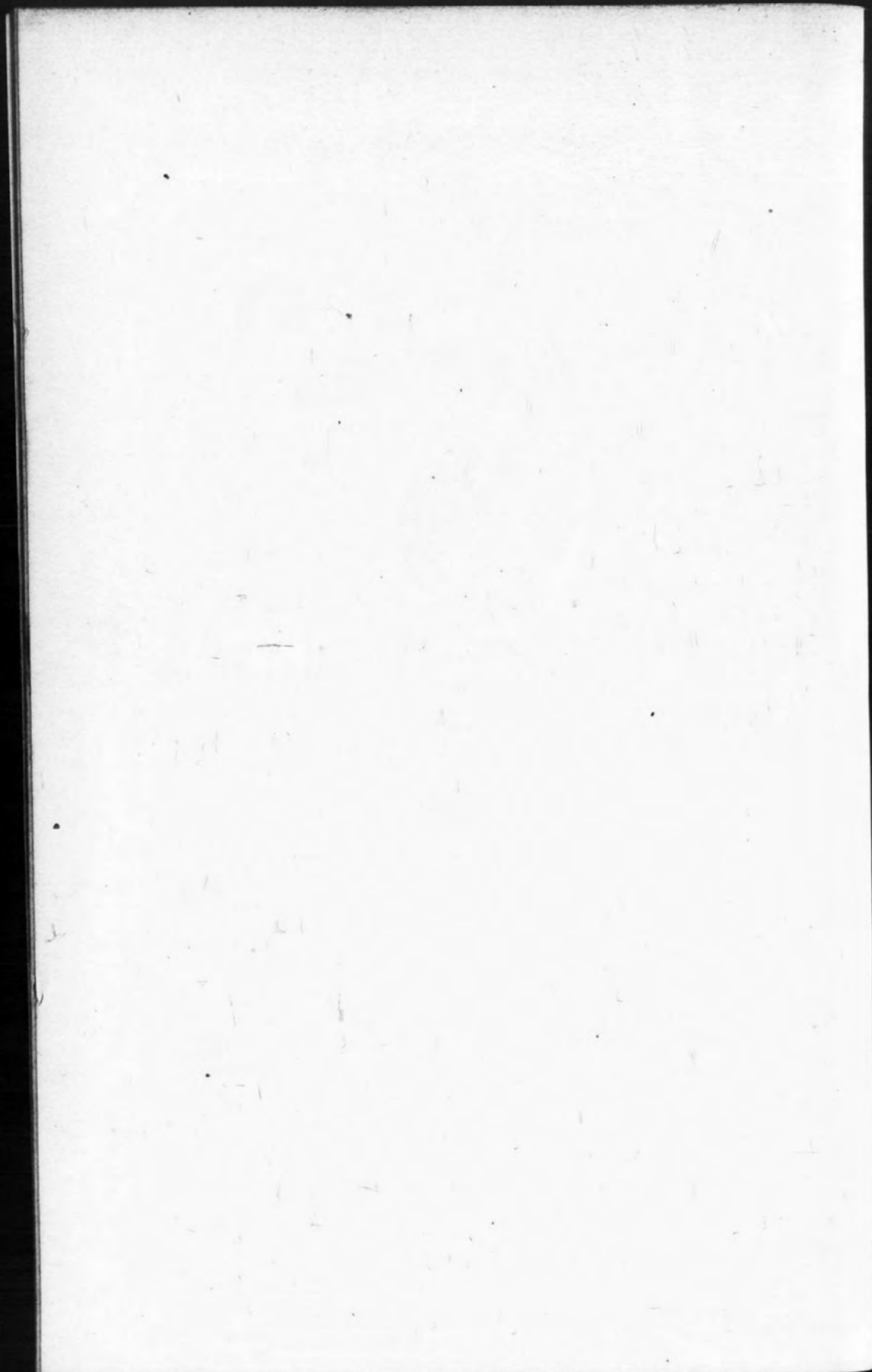
DECEMBER, 1871.

No. 12.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

*No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.*





## THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

A Monthly Magazine of Instructive and Entertaining Reading, 52 pages.  
Only \$1 per annum. December number, full of choice articles, now ready.  
Send for sample number, 15 cents.

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English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition, . . . . .	\$1 50
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

### CONFEDERATE STAMPS.

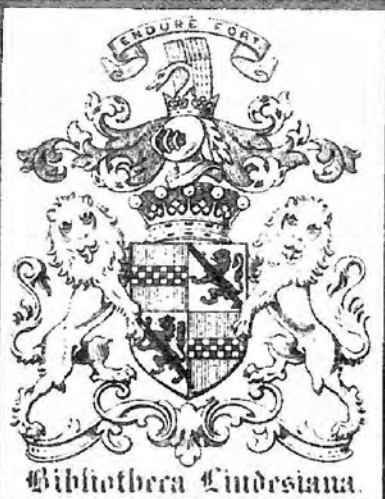
Two Cent Stamp, head of Davis, rose, unused, each, . . . . .	10 cents
Five do do blue, do . . . . .	2 cents
Ten do do do do . . . . .	3 cents
Five do do blue, large, do . . . . .	25 cents
One do do orange, do . . . . .	25 cents

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Brawford 1703

MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN COLLECTORS'



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Vol. 6.

JANUARY, 1872.

No. 1.

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HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

There was a peculiar style much in vogue at one time by the Greeks, and occasionally made use of by the Romans long afterwards, that is deserving of notice. Indeed, it must have dated from a very early period, inasmuch as it is found on coins of Sybaris, a city that was destroyed 510 B. C. This is what numismatists have called the *incused* style. Upon the punch was cut an exact representation of the design of the die, but in relief, so as when applied it would just fit into the latter. Necessarily, when the coin was stamped, one side would represent the design as usual, and the reverse side, the same design sunken or incused. Milligen has suggested that possibly it had its origin in an attempt to prevent forgery. If so, it was not successful, forgeries now being in existence which are evidently as old as the originals.

All the silver coins which have been mentioned, being of republican origin, are known as *autonomous*, as distinguished from a class now to be considered, which, on account of their being issues of princes, are denominated *regal*. The earliest of the latter now known, and which bear his name, are those of Alexander I, of Macedon, who reigned B. C. 500 to about 460. Several other kings succeeded him each of which has left similar mementos, before Philip II, 359-336 B. C., and his son Alexander III, the Great, 336-323 B. C., emitted from their various mints enormously large numbers of coins in the several metals of gold, silver and copper.

The gold darics are alleged to have been melted up by Alexander to be employed in making his own staters. About this period the Greek art seems to have been at its height, as shown both on the autonomous and regal coins, the authority of the sovereign not interfering with the republican right of the city to issue its money quite independently.

After the death of Alexander the Great, and the establishment, upon the division of his empire, of the powerful lines of the Seleucidan kings in Asia and the Lagidæ or Ptolemies in Egypt, the regular succession is faithfully chronicled in a series of beautiful coins emitted by the successive monarchs. The short-lived power,

too, of Cassander, of Antigonus and of Lysimachus are in like manner commemorated. There is usually around an artistic design a Greek inscription to the effect that it is money of the King Lysimachus, Demetrius, etc., with his portrait on the other side. Upon some coins is recorded, in addition to the above, the assumption of, for instance, "the king, the protector," or "of the beneficent king," or even the blasphemous character of "the illustrious god." Upon the Arsacian coins, a line of kings established through a revolt in some of the provinces of the Syrian empire, denominated Parthia, the vanity and wickedness of title is carried to the most ridiculous extreme: The twelfth Arsaces styling himself "the king of kings, Arsaces the Great, the Just, the Beneficent, the Illustriously born, the Lover of the Greeks." There is abundance of historical interest in these regal coins, but it may be sufficient here to mention that, in the Seleucian or Syrian series, the coins of the Antiochii recall the account given in the Apocryphal book of the Maccabees of several of these kings. Particularly important, as persecutors of the Jews, were Antiochus III the Great and Antiochus VIII, or Gryphus, so called on account of his hook nose, most faithfully represented on his silver coins.

(To be continued.)

## ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

(Continued.)

### LIP ORNAMENTS (STOPPERS) FOR WOMEN.

These stoppers were used, in gradual succession, from the smallest to the largest. At present, they are to be found but rarely in use and then only among females of great age, giving their under lips a plate-shaped appearance of most disgusting ugliness. The younger married women use as a "noli me tangere," a silver needle pierced through the under lip, which is, however, easily removed by the tongue and not always to be seen in its proper place.

### LANGUAGE.

The Kaloshians have no written language and apparently never had any. Their oral language is of unique original characters. Necessarily having suffered from those natural influences which bear upon all oral traditions in course of time, and with successive generations, it nevertheless has not the slightest resemblance, either in sound or construction, to any other language spoken in the north-western part of America and in the adjoining parts of Asia, and even of the Chinook Jargon but a few words and expressions have found their way into the Kaloshian language.

### BASKET WORK.

The manufacture of basket work is the only branch of industry practised, at present, by some of the women among the Kaloshians. Their ability in this kind of work is really surprising, but their aversion to labor checks all advantages they could gain by it. When they have finished a piece they rest until their earnings have been

spent, and no persuasion or offers are powerful enough to awaken their industry. Even too lazy to provide for their own wants, only a few wear hats, most of them leaving their heads without any covering whatever.

#### THE ALEUTIANS.

The Aleutians—a people of Mongolian descent—are scattered over the Aleutian Islands, the islands of Kodiak, St. Paul, St. George and the peninsula of Alaska. They are very industrious and of a gentle and peaceable disposition. Early subjugated by the Russians, they lived, during the continuance of the Russian government, in a state of bondage which we should call worse than slavery. The Russian government treated them, however, with fatherly care; furnished them with the necessary provisions, bestowed upon them the blessing of Christianity, sustained a number of priests and has had schools established for their education. When this despotic (!) government was supplanted by our free, republican institutions, the people became politically free, of course, but they were emancipated from the influence of Christianity and education also, and are now in the hands of a monopolizing firm of very mysterious origin, the known members and local agents of which, are Jews.

#### ALEUTIAN CANOES AND OUTFITS.

The Aleutian canoe is of seal skin about thirteen feet long. This canoe is managed by one person sitting in the opening of the deck, and dressed in a waterproof shirt which is fastened around the brim of the opening in order to secure not only a firm connection between man and vessel, but a complete exclusion of the water. The canoe, by its extreme lightness, is easily propelled and glides swiftly and safely over the highest breakers of the sea, and even, in the case of capsizing, the man, by a jerk, can easily raise it without danger of losing his hold. It is almost incredible, but nevertheless true, that frequently a single man, using such a canoe, has chased and succeeded in killing a whale. He is able to keep close to the whale and mark the most vulnerable part for the stroke of his harpoon, and to evade, by a swift turn of his canoe, an intended blow of the animal. As a whale cannot strike otherwise than in a downward direction he must, when going to strike, turn flat on one side or the other in order to hit an enemy on the surface of the water, and it is the difficult task of the hunter to change his position according to the direction of the intended blow, and get out of the reach of the tail as swiftly as the whale performs any such movement. No other vessel would be fit for such a task, and no other vessel could stand the power of the aroused waters without being filled or capsized.

The outfit of the canoe consists of the following implements:

A javelin (harpoon), with movable head and swimming bladder. When thrown at the animal, the head of the javelin, upon entering its body, separates from the shaft, and the wounded animal is compelled to drag the latter along with it, by means of the connecting string which keeps the shaft in a continually transverse direction, thus ren-

dering the movements of the animal, especially diving, very laborious. Now the real chase begins; and the frightened animal, vainly trying to get rid of the tormenting impediment by diving, running and all sorts of frantic movements, falls after hours, and sometimes after days of fruitless labor, at last, by mere exhaustion, a prey to his indefatigable pursuer.

Darts, with movable head and swimming bladder.

Darts, without swimming bladder. These darts, constructed on the principle of the javelin, are very powerful missiles and thrown by means of darting boards. The darting boards of the Aleutians, resembling the antrum of the ancient Romans, is used in the following manner: It is held in the right hand; the dart balanced in the left, is rested against the cut at the upper end of the board, from which it is precipitated with the whole force of the right arm.

(To be continued.)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Concluded.)

4. C. Obv.—Man plowing with two oxen. "SPEED THE PLOUGH HALF PENNY TOKEN." Rev.—Man threshing grain. "NO LABOUR NO BREAD."
  5. C. Obv.—Wreath in half circle. "PERSONNE." Rev.—"DE L'ISLE DE MONTREAL A REPENTIGUY ON LACHESNAYE."
  6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. Rev.—"DE REPENTIGUY A L'ISLE DE MONTREAL ON LACHESNAYE."
  7. C. Obv.—Same as No. 6. Rev.—"DE LACHESNAYE A L'ISLE DE MONTREAL ON REPENTIGUY"
  8. C. Obv.—"CHEVAL." Scroll above and below. Rev.—Same as No. 5.
  9. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Rev.—Same as No. 6.
  10. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Rev.—Same as No. 7.
  11. C. Obv.—"CALECHE." Above and below a rose with three leaves on either side. Rev.—Same as No. 5.
  12. C. Obv.—Same as No. 11. Rev.—Same as No. 6.
  13. C. Obv.—Same as No. 11. Rev.—Same as No. 7.
  14. C. Obv.—"CHARRETTE." Above and below two sprigs of laurel with bow. Rev.—Same as No. 5.
  15. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 6.
  16. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 7. Clipped.
- Nos. 5 to 16, inclusive, were used as toll checks for crossing the bridge known as the *Porteous Bridge*, which was erected in 1808 to connect the islands of Repentigny with that of Montreal. The bridge was destroyed many years ago. These checks are very rare, a good specimen commanding from \$1 to \$3.
17. C. Obv.—"FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE." Rev.—"ONE CENT 1855" Edge plain.



## ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

*(Concluded.)*

Postage stamps were permanently introduced into France in 1848 having been issued by the republicans. The series, ranging in value from ten centimes to one franc, had as a central device a beautifully impressed head of the Goddess of Liberty. They enjoyed but a limited circulation, and were soon replaced by the stamps of the Presidency, bearing a profile of Louis Napoleon, with the same inscription, which shows how astutely that consummate politician was preparing the public mind for his appearance in imperial effulgence. Upon his accession to the empire a new set were emitted, ranging in value from one centime to one franc, but although bearing the same device as the preceding issue, the inscription "Repub. Franc." was changed to that of "Empire Franc." In 1863, a new set were issued, corresponding in value and design to the preceding issue, but with the brow of his Imperial Majesty crowned with the laurel of the Cæsars. These remained current until the fall of the empire in 1870, when the republicans issued a new set similar to those issued in 1848. They range in value from one centime to eighty centimes, and were issued during the siege of Paris from the provisional capital of Bordeaux. The stamps of France are the most complicated and inimitable of all stamps in use. They are usually prepared at the *Hotel des Monnaies*, or mint, in Paris, and are under the control of the state, but yet form a special enterprise. All the stamps of France, both postal and fiscal, with those of her colonies, and Greece, emanate from the same source. The sheets on which these stamps are printed are subjected to four successive operations, the result being sure proof against forgery by the transferring process. After the stamps have been printed, gummed and perforated, they are inspected by the officials, who destroy those showing any imperfections, the remainder being forwarded to the central *Administration des Postes*.

After Prussia had decided to annex to her dominions the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, that government issued stamps for their especial use. The design is very simple, indeed, consisting of the numeral of value, with the inscriptions "Postes" and "Centimes," printed upon tinted paper.

Postage stamps were introduced into Belgium on the 1st of July, 1849, two values only—ten and twenty centimes—having been issued. The design was a three-quarter-face bust of the then king, Leopold I, in military uniform. There have been several issues of Belgian stamps, all showing the national arms or portrait of the sovereign.

Following Belgium in the emission of postage stamps came Bavaria in 1849, Austria, Prussia and Saxony in 1850, and the other states at intermediate dates, thus generalizing their use throughout continental Europe. Austria has the honor of having first introduced the "post card," and has been followed in their emission by England, the North German Confederation, Hungary, Belgium, Holland and other coun-

tries. After all that is said about the progress of our own country, does it not strike our Post Office Department that it is rather curious that all these countries should have got out post-cards ahead of us? But, unfortunately, such is the fact. Postal stamps were permanently introduced into Spain in 1850, having been authorized by a royal decree of December 1, 1849. By a ministerial order of December 14, 1849, these stamps were to be manufactured in the national manufactory of deed stamps, and sold by the tobacco vendors, with an allowance of three per cent. The first issued according to the decree consisted of two values, six cuartos and twelve cuartos, to frank home letters. The second issue comprised two sorts, five and ten reals for home, and six reals for foreign postage. They were all similar in design to our illustrations of the six cuartos and five reals. The following year a new set was issued, similar in design to the preceding issue, since which time (except for a twelvemonth when the arms were substituted) a new series has appeared almost annually, bearing the portrait of her Catholic Majesty, Isabella II. Some time after the dethronement of her Majesty a new series was emitted by the provisional government, having as a device an impressed head of the Goddess of Iberia. A new set is being prepared, with the portrait of King Amadeus, and *La Correspondencia*, a Cadiz paper, informs us that the designs have much greater artistic merit than their predecessors. The postage stamps of the Spanish colonies are manufactured in Spain, and are forwarded ready for use to the colonies.

Our space is too limited to give a detailed account of all the stamps issued by the countries of the world. We should simply have to describe over three thousand distinct emissions, issued by one hundred and thirty-three different governments. But suffice it to say that nearly all have issued postage stamps.—*Harper's Magazine.*

#### PERPETUATED ERRORS.

I believe it is the practice with some persons cataloguing a collection of coins, for public auction, frequently to copy descriptions of those pieces about which they have little knowledge other than from catalogues of previous sales. Most commonly this is quite safe; but when a man of the learning of James Oliver makes mistakes such as are about to be noticed, it is not surprising that the errors should be in subsequent catalogues for years. For instance, lot No. 82, in the catalogue of his beautiful family coins, sold in 1868, that of Herrenia, is described on the reverse as: "M. HERENNI, Aeneas carrying off Anchises." The true explanation is thus given in *Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology*: "A son carrying his father in his arms has reference to the celebrated act of filial affection of two brothers of Catania, who carried off their aged parents in the midst of an eruption of Mount Aetna." The names of the heroes of this story, which was familiar to me in my boyhood, were Anapius and Amphinomus. Again, the obverse of lot No. 134—

**Plautia**—is given "Head of the Sun, full face." Instead of the sun, a mask is here intended to be represented, as a close inspection easily shows; and as the interesting history given by Humphreys in his Manual, volume I, page 288, confirms. The story is also given in Ovid. Now each of the above mistakes are reiterated in Packer's catalogue, lots 2881 and 2913. Lot 2912, in the same, repeats a common idea that a thorn tree held the black birds, who, with the shepherd, were part of the wolf and twin group, when history alleges it was a fig tree.

As a model for those who hereafter may describe ancient coins, I would like to recommend the clear and elegant descriptions of the pieces in the John Allan silver cabinet sale, a year ago last spring. Who, for example, misapprehends such descriptions as these? "Cordia. Jugate heads of the Dioscuri (Castor and Pollux); rev., Venus standing and holding a balance in her right hand, with a Cupid on her left shoulder." "Claudius. Head of the Emperor; rev. in an oak wreath, 'By decree of the Senate for saving the lives of Citizens.'" "Vespasian. Head, rev., 'Tribune, and for the second time Consul.'" "Vitellius. Emperor's head; rev., a tripod, above which a dolphin. 'One of the fifteen commissioners for consulting the Sibylline books.' Good, rare and very curious."

Cannot the unjustifiable practice of calling cents of 1795 dies be abandoned? In otherwise respectable catalogues this is still persisted in. Hoping that the above remarks may be seasonable, I disclaim any design to be personal, my desire being to give my mite towards instruction in a science that has added much to our knowledge of the history of mankind.

#### VICISSITUDES OF A NUMISMATIST.

Vaillant, a distinguished numismatic writer, was employed for many years in collecting the rarest and most choice coins for the Royal Cabinet of Louis the Fourteenth. On one occasion, having to go to Rome, he embarked with other Frenchmen of character and distinction at Marseilles, in a vessel belonging to Leghorn, that was captured at sea by an Algerine corsair, on the day following that of his departure. As France was not then at war with the Dey, Vaillant and his companions consoled themselves that the Algerines would soon set them on shore, at liberty, but the corsair captain excused himself by saying he was too far from the French coast, and had no more provisions than was barely sufficient for his immediate return. The Algerines, therefore, accosting them with "bona pace Francesi," stripped Vaillant and his companions, and carried them to Algiers, where they were treated as slaves. The applications by the French consul for their liberation were constantly resisted by the Dey's insisting on their detention, by reason of there being eight Algerines in the king's galleys, whose enlargement he could not obtain. Vaillant, after being four months and a half a slave, was permitted to return to France, and twenty gold coins, of which he had been de-

spoiled by the corsair, were restored to him. He embarked in a small ship, bound for Marseilles, and after sailing for two days, a Saltee rover was seen advancing towards them the pirate, by means of their oars, baffled every manœuvre made by the sailing vessel to avoid a rencontre, and was soon within cannon shot. Vaillant, in extreme anxiety for the twenty gold coins, jeopardized by his recent captivity, swallowed them without the slightest hesitation; but a breeze at the moment springing up, the vessel quickly darted beyond the reach of the pirate, and was driven upon the coast of Catalonia, where it fortunately escaped becoming a total wreck. The captain subsequently entangled himself among the shores and sand-banks of the Rhone, where he lost his anchors, and Vaillant, in a boat, with much difficulty, reached the shore. The gold coins, which weighed between four and five ounces, were still within him, and greatly incommoded him. He consulted two physicians as to the proper method of relieving himself of them, but singular as it may appear, they differed in opinion, and Vaillant would not adopt the prescription of either. Abstaining from medicine, nature from time to time gave him relief, and he reached Lyons, when he had recovered about half of his treasure. In that city, he hastened to a brother antiquary, one of his numismatic associates, related circumstantially his mishaps, not forgetting the manner of his secreting the coins. He showed his delighted friend those he had in possession, and described those he hourly expected. Among these in the womb of time, was an Otho his friend was most desirous of acquiring, and busily engaged in stipulating with Vaillant for its purchase at a stated sum, forgot to render his friend any assistance, till Vaillant, complying, was with some difficulty enabled that day to fulfil the terms of the contract in rendering the Otho to his enthusiastic friend the Lyonnese collector. The gold coins that Vaillant so singularly preserved, it is stated, were of extreme beauty and rarity, were long religiously revered among the gems of the French cabinet, and were placed in the golden vase until stolen by burglars from that establishment, and the whole melted. Many were deemed uniques, and that appreciation appears to be sustained by few others occurring to repair that loss.

#### MARYLAND PATTERN SHILLING.

George Calvert, M. P. for Bossiney, in the first Parliament of King James the First, 1603, became Secretary to Sir Robert Cecil, when Secretary of State; was subsequently appointed Clerk to the Privy Council and, in 1617, received the honor of knighthood. In 1618, he was Secretary of State, and was employed by the King in his most important affairs. In the third Parliament, 1620, Sir George was returned for the county of York, the King granting him a pension of one thousand pounds per annum beyond his salary. In the Parliament, 1623, Sir George sat as member for the University of Oxford, when he changed his religion, turned a Roman Catholic, and resigned his office of Secretary of State. The King, nevertheless,

retained him in the Privy Council, and having made him large grants of land in Ireland, created him Baron Baltimore of Baltimore, County Longford, Feb. 20, 1624-5.

While Secretary of State, he obtained from the British Solomon a grant of the province of Avalon, in Newfoundland, with most extensive privileges. He expended, as he asserted, twenty-five thousand pounds on the settlement, and went thither three times during James the First's reign, but the encroachments of the French compelled him to abandon it altogether.

Lord Baltimore then contrived to obtain from King Charles the First a grant of a large tract of land in America, named by the King Maryland, in compliment to the Princess Royal, named Mary, after her mother, Queen Henrietta Maria. While the patent was preparing, Lord Baltimore died, on April 15, 1632; but the same was granted to his son Cecil, and to his heirs, of the provinces of Maryland and Avalon, the patent dated June 20, 1632. The grant was to hold Maryland with the same title and royalties as in Avalon, to hold in common soccage as of the Manor of Windsor, paying yearly, as an acknowledgment to the Crown, two Indian arrows at Windsor Castle, on Easter Tuesday; and the fifth part of the gold and silver ore.

Cecil Calvert, Baron Baltimore, being thus Lord of Maryland, in 1633, constituted his brother Leonard, second son of George, the first baron, as the first governor, conjointly with Jeremy Hawley and Thomas Cornwallis, Esqs. A coinage of money appears to have been intended. The dies of a shilling, sixpence and groat were engraved by Nicholas Briot, but are of such extreme rarity that it is evident few were struck, only as pattern pieces, as the circulation is nowhere alluded to among the incidents of the commencement of the settlement of St Mary's, in 1634, by Leonard Calvert and about two hundred other persons.

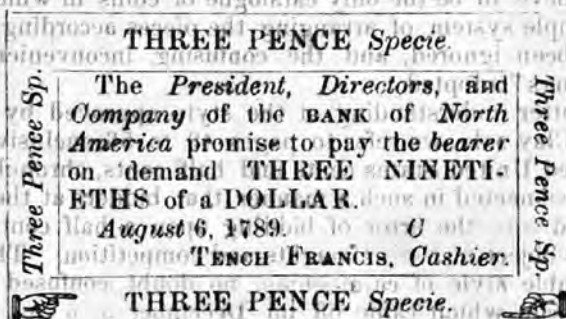
#### BANK BOOK OF DOCTOR FRANKLIN.

*The Oxford (Pa.) Press* has been shown some interesting papers of the last century, consisting of a three cent note of the old Bank of North America, the bank book of Dr. Franklin and a check drawn on the above bank by Henry Hill, executor of Dr. Franklin's will.

The bank book shows the accounts of the eminent philosopher and philanthropist from November 29, 1785 to May 13, 1790, and is headed "Bank of North America in account with his excellency Benjamin Franklin, Esq." It is about the size of those used at the present day, but the paper is coarse and rough and the backs resemble stiff paste-board. The accounts prove the traditional exactness and systematic care of the sage, and, although he may have at times been hampered for means, they exhibit a respectable cash balance in his favor.

The first five entries show a deposit of \$4351 30 to his credit, and some of the first entries on the debit side explain that he purchased a share of bank stock of J. Penrose for \$390, two shares of Abraham Markoe and five shares of John Hood, at the same price. Opposite to

these he is given credit for two six months' dividends of \$96 each, showing that stock in those days did not quite pay six per cent. In 1789, however, the same paid \$168 every six months. The note is a quaint and insignificant piece of paper  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and for the matter the value of it is very small. The following is a fac-simile of the printing on its face, as near as our modern types will admit:



On the back are various ornamental figures in black, red, green and yellow colors, with the words "3 Pence Specie," twice repeated and the name of the printer B. F. Bache.

#### CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(Concluded.)

The rarest Chinese autographs are those of Wan-hi-sche, a distinguished jurist who flourished toward the end of the third century of our era. These are so peculiar that an expert can decide on their genuineness at a glance. It is related that Wan-hi-sche was so sparing in giving his autograph that it could only be obtained from him by strategy; and it was, therefore, usual to invite him to a dinner of roast goose, of which he was very fond, in order to obtain his coveted signature to a letter of acceptance. At present, the documents written by him are sold for upwards of a thousand dollars.

When a distinguished Chinaman desires to be very gracious, he is sure to present his autograph. Thus, for instance, the imperial commissioner, Ki, presented to the French ambassador, at their first meeting, several fans, worth about five cents, but which excited the envy of the courtiers because His Royal Highness had written several words on them. As a superb present, the Emperor's uncle sent the ambassador an immense sheet of paper, on which he had drawn the single character, *cheu*, which looks like an enormous comet, and signifies "Long life!" In return for this valuable gift, the first Secretary of Legation, M. Ferriere Le Vayer, was required to send an autographic letter of thanks. Among the presents sent by the Emperor to the King of France, the most valuable was supposed to be a complete collection of *fac-similes* of the autographs of all the emperors who have reigned since the dynasty of Han.

CLAY COIN SALE CATALOGUE.

The catalogue of Dr. Clay's collection of coins, medals, &c., prepared by Dr. Charles Clay, Manchester, England, and revised by W. H. Strobridge, Brooklyn, New York, with a view of making a sale, by auction, in the United States of Dr. Clay's remarkable cabinet, is one of the most peculiar books ever presented to the numismatic public. This we believe to be the only catalogue of coins in which the uniform and simple system of arranging the pieces according to denomination has been ignored, and the confusing, inconvenient style of "mixing things" adopted.

For the better understanding of the style approved by the managers of the Clay sale, we refer to pages 49 to 56, inclusive, wherein are catalogued United States cents and half cents, chronologically, it is true, but connected in such a manner that bidders at the sale were frequently led into the error of bidding upon a half cent when the cent was the object of their thoughts and competition. This unusual and inexcusable style of cataloguing, no doubt, confused many bidders at the sale which came off on December 5, 6 and 7, of last year. How simple and convenient the plan heretofore in vogue of arranging cents and half cents under separate heads, and when the former are sold bidders will not be led into the error of buying or bidding on the latter. Again, on page 42, we find United States silver dollars of different dates placed in lots: for instance, lot 509, 1801, 1802 and 1803, being three pieces. Now it is well known that bidders in almost all cases lack certain dates to complete their series, and do not wish to purchase three pieces to obtain a desired date.

We have several complaints from distant bidders, upon the two points thus far enumerated, and we fervently hope that the Clay catalogue will be the first and last instance of the introduction of the "mixing" method.

The errors in the Clay coin catalogue are numerous, and one of the most important is that of *over-description*, while others consist of typographical blunders and a lack of knowledge on the part of Dr. Clay concerning American coins.

In most, if not all cases, the compiler of the catalogue fell into the common error of describing the periphery or edge of coin with ribs as "milled" instead of "reeded," the proper term. In this connection we would say that many collectors understand "milling" to be the small straight lines on the obverse or reverse, near the edge of the piece, and the ribbing on the edge as "reeded;" the latter term adopted by all the mints in the United States. Without wishing to be factious, and disclaiming any disposition to undervalue the beauty and value of the pieces of the Clay cabinet, it is due our patrons, who bid on certain pieces by the catalogue description, to say that, in many, very many cases, the coins fell far short of description. Thus, in the case of the United States cents, pages 49, 78 and 79, described as proof pieces, when the fact is that neither of these cents could by any possibility of comparison be classed as *proofs*. The 1814 cent, lot 1134,

had a proof surface, produced by rubbing down the field with Scotch stone. This cent realised *four dollars*, and if it had been a *proof* coin, we know a bidder present at the sale who was willing to give fifty dollars for the piece; and we would certainly give twenty-five dollars for each proof cent of this date. Many of the cents were truly beautiful, and deserved all the encomiums the cataloguer could lavish upon them; but noted instances, too numerous for insertion here, wherein the descriptions of "fine," "extremely fine," "uncirculated," and terms approximating these definitions, were entirely and inexcusably erratic, and we can only palliate their employment in connection with the United States cents by attributing the terms to Dr. Charles Clay, the owner, who has apparently a limited knowledge of the condition of coins, and whose errors were too hastily passed over by Mr. Strobidge in the laborious task of preparing the Clay manuscripts for the press.

We approach the ordinary errors of syntax with delicacy, as all persons who undertake the work of cataloguing large collections are led into errors of commission and omission which serve to amuse critics and fault-finders. As we live in a glass house in this respect, we shall refer, as a source of amusement and with the best motives, to this subject. We forebore any allusion to the common, in some respects, pardonable errors of the catalogue until *after the sale*, to avoid any charge of a disposition to underrate the Clay collection, and would say we have the highest respect for Mr. Strobidge's intelligence and knowledge of coins, particularly ancient and modern foreign coins, to impute to him anything but haste and oversight in reading the proofs of the catalogue, and, in justice to this gentleman, we frankly confess he pointed out to us numerous typographical errors in the catalogue, while others we shall allude to will probably first meet his eye in the columns of this journal.

The fatal error of the catalogue, we should say, before giving the amusing and trifling examples alluded to, was the introduction of a number of counterfeit coins among Colonials—notably, a majority of the New England silver coins, and particularly lot 1202, described with great deliberation and detail as a "pattern," "extremely fine and almost unique." This piece was a common electrotype, such as we sell at twenty-five cents, and realised two dollars, while the original is worth, in silver, five hundred dollars. We pause at Mr. Strobidge's "introduction" simply to say "improvement of *young* minds," fourth line, second paragraph, should read "improvement of *younger* minds," as written by the author.

Lot 143.—London Elephant, etc., "*Like the other Elephant piece.*" "As there are *four other* Elephant pieces preceding this lot, it puzzles one to determine which *other* is alluded to.

Lot 153.—There is a foot note just here, commencing, "These tokens, etc." As there are *several* different *tokens* preceding the lot, and the usual asterisk is wanting as a guide to the note, it is difficult to designate *which tokens* are alluded to.



Lot 154.—This lot is described as brass, but in the preceding similar lots the metal is not named.

Page 25.—The foot note continued on this page contains a hibernicism, "One in the British Museum, and *this is the other.*"

Page 21.—Under the title AUCTORI PLEBIS is given a variety of pieces not properly coming under this head. Also on page 24, under the head line, FRENCH COLONIAL, follows various Spanish, British and Danish American pieces. Other instances of this kind occur, which could have readily been corrected by the insertion, after the title, of the term "ETC."

Lot 289.—The deductions of Dr. Clay in his note upon the Gloucester token are ingenious and amusing. We regard this lot as one of the most interesting American pieces in the catalogue. The "Banking house" we believe to be Pohick Church, in Virginia, built and attended by General Washington, and if this is the true design on the piece, it is greatly enhanced in value and will be accordingly prized by the lucky purchaser. This should be described as *similar* to Mickley's, not *smaller*, the latter being the printer's error.

Page 29.—Why should the political tokens be called "Shin Plasters?" a term given to the small paper money of 1837 to 1840.

Lots 449 and 450.—These pieces should have been described as the "Clark & Gruber."

Lots 497 and 498.—Should be *California* pieces. These lots led many bidders astray.

Lot 589.—Compiler says it is *immaterial* if this piece is uncirculated as it is so nearly in this condition. We think it very material in the matter of value.

Lot 700.—"Golden color left by the impression of the dies" is good for a copper coin that does not much resemble a gold piece.

Page 58.—A note states what Dr. Clay *thinks*, far more preferable to learn what the compiler knows upon this point.

Lot 890.—Edge *engrailed* not *milled*.

Lot 913.—"Showing the agricultural implements then in use to have been fearfully and wonderfully made." This *hit* is undoubtedly a joke on the part of the compiler and no doubt referred to the engraver instead of the agricultural implements.

Lot 921.—Not a "horn"—simply a break in the die.

Lot 943.—"Not by any means fine." We found this piece *wretchedly poor*.

Lot 964.—*Plain edge*—not *engrailed*.

Lot 992.—Why "*of course, unique?*"

Lot 1025.—This medal, common as French or United States mint issues, is described at great length, yet familiar to all collectors, and could be described in three words: "Washington Before Boston."

Lot 1116.—"Liberty cap behind the head." Where should it be?

Lot 1126.—1806 cent—"One of the rarest of the series"—not so.

Lot 1149.—"Uncirculated and bright, but not smooth." Here is richness, and here we will conclude, for the present, the examination,

leaving our readers to point out such errors as they may meet with not here enumerated; advising caution in the selection, or they may get *hit back* by somebody.

**WASHINGTON'S WATCH.**

Enoch Carter, of Newburg, has in his possession a watch, which was given by George Washington to his betrothed, Mrs. Martha Custis, in 1758. The watch was made in London, is of the "bull's eye" pattern, and has the letters of the above lady's name on the face of the dial—one letter over each figure. The watch was in the possession of some of the relatives in Virginia, but, as one of the results of the late war, it has to be sold with other relics to keep starvation from the door.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CHIEF COINER OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

The following correspondence will be read with interest and satisfaction by all collectors of American coins. Of late years, it has been the habit of some coin dealers and collectors to undervalue patterns on the ground that there was no estimating the number struck, and also that the dies were undestroyed and frequently used by those connected with the mint. This opinion, as may be seen from the letter of the chief coiner, has no foundation to support it. We cannot but regret that the valuable collection of old pattern and other dies, of which he speaks, was destroyed without, at least, having impressions taken for the cabinet at the mint, and, whilst we can see no reasonable objection to the officer in charge obtaining for himself impressions from these dies, we cannot but applaud his motive in declining to take advantage of this rare opportunity of securing a choice and valuable collection of pattern and other pieces, which to him would have been of peculiar interest.

In a personal interview with Mr. Snowden, the chief coiner, who has been connected with the mint for many years, he very politely furnished us with all the information in his possession relating to the striking of regular, proof and pattern or experimental pieces, and we are satisfied that every precaution is taken to avoid abuses and to protect the interests of those who purchase coins or possess cabinets. Any irregularities that may have existed in the past are now remedied.

Pattern pieces are now issued under the most stringent regulations. Those which collectors are privileged to buy are strictly limited in number. The purchaser can, therefore, estimate the probable value of the piece in the future, from its rarity. When the number agreed upon is struck the dies are at once defaced.

When the chief coiner gives his assurance, as he does, that all the dies of previous dates are destroyed, and that it is therefore impossible to reproduce any of the old pieces, either regular or pattern, he gives an assurance that every coin collector will know how to

appreciate. The past is at least secure, and for this security we are indebted to the officers in charge of the mint at the time the destruction of the old dies alluded to took place. There was no law requiring their destruction, nor is there any law prohibiting their use, so that their destruction was dictated solely on the grounds of protecting the interests of those having cabinets, and this we know was the controlling motive.

OFFICE COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE, 139 NORTH NINTH STREET.

PHILADELPHIA December 12, 1871.

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN, Esq., Chief Coiner United States Mint:

DEAR SIR: There is an opinion prevalent among some numismatists that the regular coinage and experimental or pattern dies of past dates are now in the United States Mint, and that pieces are frequently struck off from them, thus entailing a loss (by depreciating values) upon collectors who possess cabinets of the different series of United States coins, etc.

Will you oblige by giving us the facts, so that we may judge of the truth of the complaints now so frequently heard in reference to the restriking of United States coins and other pieces at the Mint?

Yours, very truly,

E. MASON, JR.,

Editor of Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, CHIEF COINER'S DEPARTMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, December 14, 1871.

E. MASON, JR., Esq., Editor Coin Collectors' Magazine:

DEAR SIR: In reply to your communication of the 12th inst., I would state, for the information of all who may have any interest in the matter, that there are no regular coinage or pattern dies in the Mint, of any denomination whatsoever, except those dated 1871.

Shortly after my transfer to the position I now hold, I discovered in one of my vaults a large collection of old hubs and dies, which had been carefully labelled, with engraver's name and date of execution, by one of my predecessors, the late lamented Franklin Peale. This collection included hubs and dies for the various denominations of coin from about the year 1800 to 1855. It was not a complete series of dies, but it embraced either as hubs or dies all the rare pattern pieces executed by Mr. Gobrecht and others. Among the number were several from which no pieces are known to have been struck. Many of the devices were beautiful in design and exquisite in execution. This was peculiarly the case with a dollar and a half dollar hub by Gobrecht.

In the spring of 1869, I consulted with the Director, Dr. Linderman, as to the propriety, indeed importance, for various reasons, of having these hubs and dies destroyed. He fully concurred with me, and, acting under his authority, I had them all defaced by heating in the forge and use of the sledge. Of this large number of dies and hubs, not a single one was ever used to strike a single impression since I have held the office of Chief Coiner. About the same time that this destruction of dies was taking place, Dr. Linderman, to my knowledge, gave orders to the die sinker for the destruction of all the pattern hubs and dies of all dates, and all the regular coinage hubs of old devices and all coinage dies, except those dated 1869, that were then in his safe. This order was faithfully executed; so that when Governor Pollock was reappointed Director, in May of the same year, there was not a hub or die in the Mint except those in actual use upon the coinage for the then current year. Under his directorship (as has been customary for many years), all the regular coining dies used during the year are destroyed at the beginning of the following year, in the presence of the Chief Coiner and Engraver or their representatives.

Since Governor Pollock's reappointment there have been but two (2) series of pattern coins struck which were sold to collectors, viz: the silver halves, quarters and dimes (nine pieces), of reduced weight, dated 1869 and 1870.

The number to be issued was agreed upon between the director and myself before a piece was struck, and the dies were defaced when the number was reached.

Purely experimental dies, from which no pieces are sold, are also guarded with great care. But very few impressions are taken, and if the device, either in design or execution, is not satisfactory, the die is at once destroyed.

From all I can learn it was customary in former years to strike a limited number of pieces from old dies to oblige collectors and others, and whilst there is no law against the practice it is liable to abuse, and perhaps it is well that the destruction of all the old dies and hubs has entirely removed this temptation.

The idea expressed in your letter that regular coinage and pattern dies of past years are now kept in the Mint, and frequently used, is without the semblance of truth to rest upon. I have answered your letter at some length in the hope that the erroneous impressions you speak of as being prevalent may be corrected.

I am, very truly,

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN.

Chief Coiner United States Mint.

#### DR. CLAY'S COIN SALE.

December 5, 6 and 7 of last year were a trio of days of great interest to the numismatic brotherhood, for upon those days the celebrated "Clay Cabinet," all the way from "Merrie England," was brought to the auctioneer's rostrum and distributed piecemeal to the highest bidder. George A. Leavitt & Co.'s book trade sales room, Astor Place, New York, was well filled by an attentive and, in all respects, *first class audience* upon each evening of the sale. The auctioneer "spoke a piece" before proceeding with the sale, enumerating the good points of the catalogue, and, in a few well-chosen remarks, expressed his satisfaction at seeing so many veteran coin collectors and familiar faces of days of long ago present; and he was right. There, in a front seat, was Woodward the pioneer—as far as quantity and quality of coin sales are concerned—and next to him sat Strobbridge, full of enthusiasm and occasionally boiling over with witty numismatic expressions to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Cogan was in his old place, by the side of the auctioneer, looking the picture of confidence in his apparent determination to make a good fight for the choice pieces in the sale. Coin dealers from Boston, Lowell, New York, Philadelphia, and other cities, were sandwiched among the buyers, coolly and calmly awaiting the bargains sure to offer in a sale where duplicates were frequently distributed through the well-stuffed catalogue. New faces were in the ranks, and all the regular attendants at sales of this character were present excepting a few whose pressing engagements kept them elsewhere. We recognised among buyers present: Diffendorf, Crosby, Root, Seavey, Elliott, Ex-Governor Lyons, Cohen, Haseltine, Maris, Randall, Dick (firm of Dick & Fitzgerald), Sampson, Fay, Cleveland, Ahlborn, Parmelee, Levick, De Burns, Emery, Poillion, Balmanno and George B. Mason.

Feurobert, an English or German buyer, succeeded in obtaining a few choice pieces. We have not the space to give the various incidents of the sale, but may, in a future number, refer to them. The total receipts of the sale were about six thousand two hundred dollars and may net Dr. Clay about five thousand dollars *currency* a dead loss to him (considering our offer for his cabinet of six thousand five hundred dollars *gold*) of at least one thousand dollars. The following are among the lots that realised the highest prices:

45. Woodward, . . . . .	\$77 00	702. Ahlborn, . . . . .	\$19 00
47. Woodward, . . . . .	42 50	703. Parsons, . . . . .	65 00
69. Elliott, . . . . .	61 00	706. Root, . . . . .	37 00
170. Seavey, . . . . .	31 00	707. Col. Cohen, . . . . .	12 00
137. Feurobert, . . . . .	33 00	709. Parsons, . . . . .	11 00
139. Seavey, . . . . .	72 50	716. Col. Cohen, . . . . .	26 00
54. Crosby, . . . . .	18 50	728. Root, . . . . .	23 00
193. Crosby, . . . . .	190 00	763. Parsons, . . . . .	43 00
236. Feurobert, . . . . .	55 00	867. Woodward, . . . . .	100 00
238. Crosby, . . . . .	37 50	893. Dick, . . . . .	21 00
323. Chapman, . . . . .	17 00	894. Mason & Co., . . . . .	13 00
439. Mason & Co., . . . . .	10 00	896. Dick, . . . . .	31 00
693. Parsons, . . . . .	44 00	995. Root, . . . . .	225 00
694. Mason & Co., . . . . .	15 00	996. Root, . . . . .	40 00
695. Parsons, . . . . .	52 50	997. Feurobert, . . . . .	68 00
696. Seavey, . . . . .	42 00	1064. Harris, . . . . .	15 00
697. Seavey, . . . . .	36 00	1070. Mason & Co., . . . . .	15 00
698. Woodward, . . . . .	30 00	1203. Rutledge, . . . . .	17 00
699. Parsons, . . . . .	42 00	1340. Woodward, . . . . .	11 00
700. Woodward, . . . . .	25 00	1347. Mott, . . . . .	16 00
701. Root, . . . . .	67 50	1229. Woodward, . . . . .	205 00

The last lot included 1229 to 1327, being the *unique* collection of Isle of Man Pieces, worth more than double the amount sold for, to British numismatists, if sold by the single specimen. The auctioneers struggled manfully, against the tide, however, to reach a total of eight thousand dollars for the collection. We trust when Dr. Clay reads this article, he will credit an American dealer with a slight knowledge of the value of his country's coinage; and should he again present a collection for public sale in America, he will have the foresight to put his property in proper shape as regards duplicates, cataloguing and general management. Mr. Woodward could have so divided Clay's cabinet, and so managed it as to have realised eight to ten thousand dollars for it, to say nothing of other parties, who have facilities not possessed by auctioneers for selling large collections.

#### MOTT'S TOKENS.

We are indebted to Henry Mott, of Montreal, Canada for tokens of kindness in permitting the use of the articles, in this number, entitled "Maryland Pattern Shilling" and "Vicissitudes of a Numismatist," from a book purchased by Mr. Mott at Clay's coin sale.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE LADIES  
OF TRENTON.

By the kind attention of Mr. L. J. Parsons, of New Haven, Conn., we have been furnished and insert a photographic copy of one of the most interesting letters Washington ever penned. The original letter is in possession of Miss Armstrong, New Haven, and the photograph is by Good, of the same city, and good indeed it is, as any one can see by calling in our office and inspecting the document.

General Washington cannot leave this place without expressing his acknowledgments, to the Matrons and Young Ladies who received him in so noble and grateful a manner at the Triumphal Arch in Trenton, for the exquisite sensation he experienced in that affecting moment.—The astonishing contrast between his former and actual situation at the same spot—the elegant taste with which it was adorned for the present occasion—and the innocent appearance of the *White-robed Choir* who met him with the gratulatory song, have made such impressions on his remembrance as, he assures them, will never be effaced.

Trenton, April 21st, 1789.

COIN CABINETS.

The article on cabinets is crowded out for want of room. We, however, give the following letter in connection with the subject, and again solicit communications.

RONDOUT, N. Y., December 9, 1871.

GENTS—Having read your valuable magazine, and also having a little time to spare, I thought I would give you a description of my coin cabinet. My cabinet is about square, made very plain, of black walnut; its dimensions are two feet high, one and a half feet wide and one and three-quarter feet deep. The size of a drawer is consequently one and three-quarter feet deep by one and a half wide. My cabinet comprises twelve drawers, eleven of which are one inch deep, and one (No. 12) is three inches. All my drawers, except No. 7, are covered with bleached cotton flannel—No. 7 is covered with black velvet.

BLACK LIST.

C. A. BUCKLEY, GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.

[As this individual always sent drafts for all but one of the very small amounts he was indebted to us for, we are at a loss to know how he paid his last account which was due and asked for, by letter, on four different occasions. A letter received from him recently states that he paid the money long since. If paid, where is the inevitable draft? If too poor to pay a small bill, his impecuniosity would have been considered a satisfactory excuse, and the indebtedness cancelled; but, a wilful misrepresentation is inexcusable.—Ed.]

DISCONTINUED.

It is our purpose, at some future time, to either publish a postage stamp journal or transfer the publication to other parties, and we have, therefore, dropped the stamp portion of our title, and omitted from this date all postage stamp matter. We shall continue the stamp business, and soon publish a new and improved packet list.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., December 18, 1871.

MESSESS. MASON & Co.—GENTS: I have a U. S. cent of 1802, in my collection, without stems to the wreath and the obverse made with a broken die, the same as described by your Wisconsin correspondent in the December number of your magazine. I have cents of 1803, without stems to the wreath; a cent of 1835 with a double face.

I have *three* varieties of the Ring cents of 1787: United States and States United, and another with *coarse* rays from the sun over the dial. Mr. Gill, of this city, has a U. S. cent of 1844 that is nearly an eighth of an inch larger in diameter than any other, and the bust is as much larger in proportion. Why is this thus?

Yours truly,

L. J. PARSONS.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., December 18, 1871.

MESSESS. MASON & Co.—GENTS: You have asked my opinion in regard to the United States cent having the date of 1830 and 1839 combined in one. I am perfectly satisfied that it is an 1839 cent, with the 1838 head, and that the peculiarity in the figure 9 was caused by a *broken die*; that is, the *narrow partition*—so to speak—between the upper and lower end of the nine, on the left hand side.

If this *nine* had been made over a *cipher* it would be as perfect on the left as on the right side. The same as the 1800 over 1799.

Yours truly,

L. J. PARSONS.

## CHANGE

Change is written on the face of everything, including the diminutive three cent United States shipplasters; and why should we not be addicted to change? This month our readers will observe we have changed our office from a *good* location to a *better* one; and also changed the character of our journal by dispensing with postage stamp matter, thus losing to our stamp readers the very little talent we possessed in a philatelic way and devoting more time to the higher branches of science. The time is not distant when stamp collecting in the United States will vie in interest and usefulness with its older cousins: Numismatology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Bibliography, Autography, etc. Our subscribers in the philatelic line were few and far between, and as we part with them we beg to apologize for the scanty feast set before them for the past four or five years, and assure them that our "over the water" contemporaries contributed liberally of their valuable aid to entertain them with the "newest issues." We shall continue as heretofore to deal in stamps and have now in press a new "Packet List" for 1872.

## OUR SECOND EDITORIAL TOUR.

An article prepared by the editor on the above subject is crowded out, but will appear next month.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. T. M., NEW YORK.—“Parsons” may be an assumed name for all we know; but of one thing rest assured, Mr. P. will find that he paid dear for the whistle, and that nearly all he purchased at the Clay sale were worth but one half the prices at any retail coin shop.

VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRONS are informed that Mr. Mason could not carry out his programme, during his second tour to New England, as he was obliged to confine his labors to Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine.

SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1872.—The following parties will accept thanks for renewal of subscriptions: F. D. A., A. A., A. J. P., A. J. N., C. B., G. W. B., A. B., J. E. C., C. L., J. B. C., J. M. D., R. S. E., M. D. G., J. G., JR., A. H., M. H., C. K., M. L., D. L., H. M., T. R. M., L. M., G. P., J. E. R., W. L., C. A. V. S., L. J. P., F. P. R., S. S. & Co., A. S. & Co., L. W., E. B. W., H. C. W., J. C. W., T. D. W., A. C. Z., P. R. (club of 15), S. A. (club of 5), U. G. (2 copies), A. R., E. B. T., T. C., A. H., A. E. H., G. P., D. L. H., R. K. All others answered by mail.

T. PORTSMOUTH, OHIO.—\$27 at hand.

C. A. BUCKLEY, GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.—Your falsehood will be attended to in our next issue. You owe us the money, and we have written four letters the past six months, and at this late day you say you paid the bill several months since. *Too thin.*

T. P., LONDON, ENGLAND.—Send on all the numismatic works you can find. Letter by mail.

MONTREAL.—\$5 received, with thanks for your generous conduct and with due consideration for forgetfulness. Under the circumstances we regret the initial appeared.

H. F. S., RANDOLPH.—“Grant” not received. Think you are mistaken about the money due. Please send account as you have it.

W. C. E., WARE.—Mint medals, size 32, at \$1 25 each.

R. C., WASHINGTON.—Home again and prepared to fill orders.

L. J. P.—Thanks for favors.

T. H. T., PORTSMOUTH.—Account square. Will send coins soon.

H. J. K., BOSTON.—The Ameri, bought by “Parsons,” for \$52, in the Clay sale, was worth \$15 only.

## SALE OF PAPER MONEY.

Our next sale consists of a private collection of Colonial and Continental paper money, to take place at Bangs, Mervin & Co.'s Sale Rooms, No. 694 Broadway, New York, on the 31st of the present month. Included in this collection is a fine series of North Carolina paper money, issued during the rebellion. Particular attention is called to the Colonial notes of New England, especially the Vermont note (lot No. 40 of the catalogue), and rare and choice notes of the Southern States, &c. Catalogues will be mailed to all our patrons on the 8th inst. Bids executed as usual.



# COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

**VOL. 6. FEBRUARY, 1872. No. 2.**

## HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

The standard of the Greek silver coins, as has been remarked before, was the drachma. There were also hemidrachms of half the standard weight, didrachms of double, tridrachms of treble, tetradrachms of quadruple, and even octodrachms of eight times the weight of the standard. The obolus—derived from a Greek term signifying a spike or small obelisk—was the sixth of a drachm. It has also its multiples, diobolus and triobolus, and there was also the hemiobolus, the smallest silver coin of ancient Greece.

An alloy known amongst the ancients as electrum was sometimes coined into money. Its composition was a mixture of gold and silver.

The earliest copper money is now assigned to King *Æropus*, in Macedonia, about the year 397 B. C. It appears to have originated in an attempt to relieve the treasury of a drain consequent upon the ruinous expenditure necessitated by the Peloponnesian war. But its unpopularity is evinced by the circumstance that the orator *Dionysius*, who defended the project, became stigmatized with the epithet of "the brazen orator," or "man of brass." The largest copper pieces, excepting some enormously large ones of the *Ptolemies*, are believed to have been coined about 200 B. C., and are about the size of the copper penny of *George III.*, issued in 1797. In value they were made equal to the silver obolus. The *chalcus*, of half the size of the copper obol, seems to have been the standard, having three subdivisions into halves, quarters and eighths of a *chalcus*, and accordingly denominated *tetralepton*, *dilepton* and *lepton*. The last is the "widow's mite," and is the smallest copper coin of ancient Greece.

A talent was equal to six thousand drachmæ. As the silver drachma weighed only one half that of the gold stater, and had a value equal to one twentieth part thereof, the talent of gold, being estimated by weight, would be equivalent to one hundred and twenty thousand silver drachmæ, or twenty talents of silver. No fixed rate, however, can be assigned either to the talent or the drachma, as the latter varied in weight in the several States. The talent, then, whenever mentioned in the Scriptures, does not refer to a coin, as might be supposed, but to a sum of money, varying in amount according to

whether gold or silver was intended. By valuing the silver drachma at fifteen cents, the gold talent would amount to eighteen thousand dollars, the silver talent to fifteen hundred dollars.

*(To be continued.)*

### THE ST. PATRICK'S PENNY, OR MARK NEWBY'S NEW JERSEY COPPERS.

In the long and sad annals of Irish history, there is no brighter spot than the six years during which the Confederation of Kilkenny ruled with almost absolute sway, levying troops, sending out ambassadors and coining money; exercising, in fact, all the functions of a state. Well had it been for Ireland if they had at once disavowed the treacherous Stuart, Charles I, and sought a king from some state on the continent able to aid them.

The coins struck at this period, by the only independent authority Ireland possessed for centuries, are known as St. Patrick's pennies, and, although some doubts have been raised as to their origin, the uniform consent of historians that the Confederation coined money; the fine execution of the coins, evidently continental; and the frequency with which they are found at Kilkenny, have, after a thorough investigation by the Kilkenny Archæological Society, been recognized as deciding the question.

The pieces continued to circulate in Ireland long after the fond hopes of the Catholics were blasted; but at last an effort was made to remove from the people this perpetual remembrance of a period when they still had leaders, men of high birth, nobles of Irish and English origin, whose influence England had to respect.

By a curious course of circumstances, some of them became current coin in the colony of New Jersey. Smith, the historian of that province, tells us that Mark Newby, one of the two agents for the third or Irish tenth of New Jersey, brought over a great quantity of Patrick's pence, which were legalized in 1682; the act then passed declaring that "for the more convenient payment of small sums of money, Mark Newby's coppers, called Patrick's half-pence, should pass as half-pence current pay;" and thus a coin, minted probably at Rome, so associated with national independence in Ireland, proscribed by England, became legal tender in America.

### ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

*(Concluded.)*

#### MONEY.

When the Russians took possession of Alaska, they introduced, of course, their own national money, especially copper coin, thus supplanting the primitive barter by the modern bargain. The natives, by means of the Russian money, were able to buy articles they wanted from the stores of the Russians; but, as they were likewise enabled, by means of coin, to provide for their wants from foreign traders, especially from the British territory, the Russians, to preserve their

monopoly of trade, manufactured leather money as the only lawful currency for Alaska, thus preventing the natives, as well as their own employes, from bargaining with foreigners, and forcing them to supply their wants from the Russian stores. With the arrival of the Americans in Alaska, the leather money disappeared.

There were two varieties of Schnaps money, one good for a full drink and the other good for a half drink. These schnaps marks were abolished several years since. The officers of the late Russian American Fur Company were, by contract, entitled to a certain number of drinks, according to their rank and station. The number of marks varied from thirty to ninety drinks per month, paid together with the salary, entitling the receiver to the stipulated daily number of drinks at a certain bar established for this purpose. The half pieces were given to Indians.

#### MODERN ARMS.

We have admitted modern arms in this description, because we were anxious to show at once all sorts of personal weapons ever known in Alaska, from the club to the needle-gun. We think, however, this addition will not be in discord with the general object, more particularly as some of these arms have been used by natives. The greater part of them was chosen from the Russian arsenal in Sitka, as the most remarkable to be found there: Watchman's halberd—time of Catherine I; rifles made by Russian convicts, the barrel being furnished by the government; Caucasian guns captured by the Russians; Belgian rifle; rifle intended for killing whales; Russian target rifle; rifle with spring bayonet; rifle with sword bayonet; Swiss rifle; Russian musketoons; revolving rifle—first attempt at revolving apparatus; needle gun; needle carbines and several kinds of Russian pistols.

#### ANCIENT GOLD COIN FOUND.

A short time since, while several of the apprentices of Messrs. Croft, Wilbur & Co., confectioners, at No. 125 North Second street, in this city, were excavating in the cellar, to make room for a boiler and engine, they dug up a number of gold coins, which were wrapped in brown paper, and are supposed to have been placed there by a collector of old coins. Some are very ancient. One of them, the intrinsic value of which is about ten dollars, has upon it the letters F. V. A., and immediately under them the numbers 7, 4, 1, separated by raised lines. The characters upon it are two lions and two castles. The coin is roughly made, and seems to have been struck upon a die, the coiner using a hammer. Another of the coins, about as large in diameter as the half dollar of the United States, but not as thick, has upon it a representation of the head of Ferdinand VI, of Spain, the date being 1749. One of the boys secured twelve or fifteen of the pieces, of various kinds, and another almost as many. About five hundred dollars' worth in gold were gathered up. The oldest piece having a date upon it was made in the year 1678. The

Spanish coin is in excellent condition, the soil being sandy, and the paper in which they were wrapped well preserved.

### A VALUABLE TABLE.

The annexed tables are worthy of preservation. They were prepared by the Director of the United States Mint, in accordance with Act of Congress, and are included in the report of ex-Governor Pollock to the Secretary of the Treasury. They show the value of silver and gold coins throughout the world, in American currency:

#### GOLD COINS.

Country,	Denominations.	Weight. Oz. Dec.	Finesses. Thou.	Value.
Australia,	Pound of 1852,	.281	916.5	\$5 32.37
"	Sovereign 1855-60,	.256.5	916.	4 85.58
Austria,	Ducat,	.112	986.	2 28.28
"	Souverain,	.363	900.	6 75.35
"	New Union Crown (assumed),	.357	900.	6 64.19
Belgium,	Twenty-five Francs,	.254	899.	4 72.08
Bolivia,	Doubloon,	.867	870.	15 59.25
Brazil,	20 Milreis,	.575	917.5	10 90.57
Central America,	Two Escudos,	.209	853.5	3 68.75
Chili,	Old Doubloon,	.867	870.	15 59.26
"	Ten Pesos,	.492	900.	9 15.35
Denmark,	Ten Thalers,	.427	895.	7 90.01
Ecuador,	Four Escudos,	.433	844.	7 55.46
England,	Pound or Sovereign, new,	.256.7	916.5	4 86.34
"	Pound or Sovereign, average,	.256.2	916.	4 84.92
France,	20 Francs, new,	.207.5	899.5	3 85.83
"	20 Francs, average,	.207	899.	3 84.69
Germany, North,	Ten Thalers,	.427	895.	7 90.01
Germany, North,	Ten Thalers, Prussia,	.427	903.	7 97.07
Germany, North,	Krone (Crown),	.357	900.	6 64.20
Germany, South,	Ducat,	.112	986.	2 28.28
Greece,	Twenty Drachms,	.185	900.	3 44.19
Hindustan,	Mohur,	.374	916.	7 08.18
Italy,	Twenty Lire,	.207	898.	3 84.26
Japan,	Old Cobang,	.362	568.	4 44.0
"	New Cobang,	.289	572.	3 57.6
Mexico,	Doubloon, average,	.867.5	866.	15 52.98
"	Doubloon, new,	.867.5	870.5	15 61.05
Naples,	Six Ducats, new,	.245	996.	5 04.43
Netherlands,	Ten Guilders,	.215	899.	3 99.56
New Granada,	Old Doubloon, Bogata,	.868	870.	15 61.06
New Granada,	Old Doubloon, Popayan,	.867	858.	15 37.76
New Granada,	Ten Pesos, new,	.525	891.5	9 67.51
Peru,	Old Doubloon,	.867	868.	15 55.67
Portugal,	Gold Crown,	.308	912.	5 80.66
Prussia,	New Union Crown (assumed),	.357	900.	6 64.19
Rome,	2½ Scudi, new,	.140	901.	2 60.47
Russia,	Five Roubles,	.210	916.	3 97.64
Spain,	100 Reals,	.268	896.	4 96.32
"	80 Reals,	.215	869.5	3 86.44
Sweden,	Ducat,	.111	975.	2 23.72
Tunis,	25 Piastres,	.161	900.	2 99.64
Turkey,	100 Piastres,	.231	915.	4 36.93
Tuscany,	Sequin,	.112	999.	2 31.29

## SILVER COINS.

Country.	Denominations.	Weight.	Fineness.	Value.
		Oz. Dec.	Thou.	
Austria,	Old Rix Dollar,	.902	833.	\$1 02.27
"	Old Scudo,	.836	902.	1 02.64
"	Florin, before 1858,	.451	833.	51.14
"	New Florin,	.397	900.	48.63
"	New Union Dollar,	.596	900.	73.01
"	Maria Theresa Dollar, 1780,	.895	838.	1 02.12
Belgium,	Five Francs,	.803	897.	98.04
Bolivia,	New Dollar,	.643	903.5	79.07
"	Half Dollar,	.432	667.	39.22
Brazil,	Double Milreis,	.820	918.5	1 02.53
Canada,	Twenty Cents,	.150	925.	18.87
Central America,	Dollar,	.866	850.	1 00.19
Chili,	Old Dollar,	.864	908.	1 06.79
"	New Dollar,	.801	900.5	98.17
Denmark,	Two Rigsdaler,	.927	877.	1 10.65
England,	Shilling, new,	.182.5	924.5	22.96
"	Shilling, average,	.178	925.	22.41
France,	Five Francs,	.800	900.	98.00
Germany, North,	Thaler, before 1857,	.712	750.	72.67
"	New Thaler,	.595	900.	72.89
Germany, South,	Florin, before 1857,	.340	900.	41.65
"	New Florin (assumed),	.340	900.	41.65
Greece,	Five Drachms,	.719	900.	88.08
Hindostan,	Rupee,	.374	916.	46.62
Japan,	Itzebu,	.279	991.	37.63
"	New Itzebu,	.279	890.	33.80
Mexico,	Dollar, new,	.867.5	903.	1 06.62
"	Dollar, average,	.866	901.	1 06.20
Naples,	Scudo,	.844	830.	95.34
Netherlands,	2½ Guilders,	.804	944.	1 03.31
Norway,	Specie Daler,	.927	807.	1 10.65
New Granada,	Dollar of 1857,	.803	896.	97.92
Peru,	Old Dollar,	.866	901.	1 06.20
"	Dollar of 1858,	.766	909.	94.77
"	Half Dollar of 1835-1838,	.433	650.	38.31
Prussia,	Thaler, before 1857,	.712	750.	72.68
"	Thaler, new,	.595	800.	72.89
Rome,	Scudo,	.864	900.	1 05.84
Russia,	Rouble	.667	875.	79.44
Sardinia,	Five Lire,	.800	900.	98.00
Spain,	Pistareen, new,	.166	899.	20.31
Sweden,	Rix Dollar,	1.092	750.	1 11.48
Switzerland,	Two Francs,	.323	899.	39.52
Tunis,	Five Piastres,	.511	898.5	62.49
Turkey,	Twenty Piastres,	.770	830.	86.98
Tuscany,	Florin,	.220	925.	27.60

## QUARTZITE IMPLEMENTS.

A large collection of chipped quartzite implements has been found on the river Godavery, in Bengal. The forms are similar to those found in French and English gravels, the length varying from about three inches to six inches. The spot where they were found appears to have been a place of manufacture.

## REVIEW OF THE ERRORS OF THE CLAY PRICE LIST.

AS PUBLISHED BY THE N. E. N. SOCIETY.

Lot 54. Printed list, \$9 00. Sold for \$8 50.

81. " 9 25. " 9 00.

159. " 1 50. " 1 00.

182. " 5 00. " 5 25.

197. " 1 15. " 1 10.

240. " 2 50. " 2 25.

\*270. " 2 70. " 6 50.

297. " 75. " 2 75.

315. " 3. " 6.

316. " 3. " 25.

331. " 50. " 25.

335. " 1. " 10.

374. " 25. " 15.

547. " 1 00. " 56.

553. " 56. " 1 00.

554. " 56. " 1 00.

555. " 1 00. " 1 13.

556. " 1 13. " 1 32.

619. " 1 25. " 40.

702. " 20 00. " 19 00.

731. " 1 00. " 2 50.

749. " 6 50. " 6 00.

751. " 30. " 80.

758. " 35. " 55.

772. " 1 70. " 1 50.

784 to 787, inclusive, no prices given.

791. Printed list, \$ 25. Sold for \$ 50.

874. " 70. " 50.

879. " 2 25. " 3 25.

935. " 4 30. " 4 50.

950. " 3 25. " 3 00.

954. " 50. " 1 00.

987. " 7 50. " 7 00.

1002. " 1 00. " 1 50.

1108. " 5 00. " 4 75.

1138. " 5 00. " 63.

1189a. " 3 25. " 8 00.

1190. " 4 00. " 3 25.

1333. " 2 25. " 4 50.

\* Evidently a typographical error, lot repeated as price instead of the sum sold for.

## COIN SALE.

Bangs, Merwin & Co. sold at public auction, on January 5, 1872, a small private collection of coins prepared by Alfred S. Robinson, of Hartford, Connecticut. Attendance and prices fair.

## NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

We are pleased to hear that our friends in the Dominion of Canada are about to publish a magazine, under the auspices of the above society, devoted to the gathering and treasuring up of information having reference mainly to Canadian subjects. We wish the contemplated "fellow laborer" every success. We know the society has a number of energetic gentlemen within its circle, and we believe it will commence with a fair prospect of good fortune. It is proposed at first to issue a quarterly of forty-eight pages. In our next issue we may be able to announce full particulars. It is our wish and hope that the Montreal association will, through their new journal, give particular attention to the types and varieties of Canadian coins, medals and tokens.

## A LONDON COIN DEALER.

William Webster, a dealer in old coins at Covent Garden, London, England, has written us a strange letter with a view of palliating the inexcusable conduct of his agents in receiving bids from us while in London, last spring, upon a sale of coins in prospective, and entirely ignoring said bids to accommodate W. S. Appleton, Esq., of Boston, and John King, London, who obtained the pieces bid upon at a less figure than we offered. A few words of explanation before presenting the arguments of Mr. Webster as given in his letter now before us. In May, we called at Mr. Webster's house and had an interview with his son, an adult, giving our standing in America and referring to W. S. Lincoln & Son, with whom we had some considerable business in the coin line; also, referring to other parties in England, and stating our purpose in calling to obtain rare and choice American coins. Mr. Webster informed us that his father was sick, but he was fully authorized to treat with us, and kindly exhibited a large variety of American and antique foreign coins. We purchased a gold sovereign for three pounds and a pine tree shilling for ten shillings. We were then shown a private collection of foreign and American coins, and discovered a fine lot of proof and uncirculated silver and copper United States coins mixed and piled up in a tray with a quantity of trashy pieces. We carefully and considerably extracted the beautiful 1796 and 1797 United States silver half dollars we espied in the mass and laid them aside; next we discovered in the same amalgamated mass a 1796 United States quarter dollar and dime; also, 1793, 1795, 1800 and some few other cents and half cents, all bright and beautiful. We then offered to bid on them, stating that we would leave a deposit or references for security, and if the pieces were purchased for us at the sale to occur in August or September following, Mr. Webster would please notify us and we would send bill of exchange covering the purchase money and commission. Mr. Webster, Jr., said there was no necessity of a deposit, and he would be pleased to execute the order. To our surprise and chagrin, we

discovered that W. S. Appleton, Boston, and John King, London, secured the pieces we had bid upon. After discovering a "mouse in the meal chest," we dispatched a letter to Mr. Webster, demanding why we did not secure the pieces bid upon; we also obtained the assistance of a friend, residing in London, to inquire into the matter at Mr. Webster's office. This friend was treated with great discourtesy, and rudely repelled, while politely investigating an injustice done a coin dealing firm in the United States.

We give Mr. Webster's explanatory letter, remarking that it reads very much like the old "broken pot" story; "*never had the pot; was broken when I got it.*" etc. It will be seen that Mr. Webster lost our card containing the bids, and yet his memory of the whole address was perfect when he wrote the following letter:

HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN,  
LONDON, December 28, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia, United States of America.

SIRS: In reply to yours, received December 9. When Mr. Mason was last in England, I was laid up on a bed of sickness. Consequently, my son saw him, and after selling him a few coins showed him some very fine American pieces that we were about to catalogue for public sale, upon which Mr. Mason said he would give ten pounds each for the half dollars of 1796 and 1797, and made one or two other bids, which I cannot distinctly recollect, having lost the card of your firm upon which my son himself put down the prices. He showed me this card when I was well enough to be consulted on the approaching sale, and then, when I found that Mr. Mason had left no deposit on the bids he made, I told my son I could not think of buying for any one that was quite a stranger to me, without he had left such a deposit. Unfortunately, the day of sale was fixed for an earlier date than we anticipated, and there was no time to write you my intention or even to send you a catalogue, that is to say, for me to have had a reply from you in time for the sale.

If it will be of any service to you to know, I will tell you that I should not have been able to procure for you the half dollars of 1796 and 1797, as I had a commission for each, twenty per cent. higher than yours. With regard to the others that you wanted, Mr. King, I see, bought some of them, and I have no doubt but that he will let you have them as reasonable as anybody. Regretting the disappointment that I am afraid I have caused you,

I remain, sirs, yours, very faithfully,

WM. WEBSTER.

"Twenty per cent. higher," "lost the card of your firm," "left no deposit," "laid up on a bed of sickness," "a stranger to me," "Mr. King, I see, bought some," "will let you have them," etc.

Now all this bosh means, if it means anything, that Mr. Webster committed a grave error in ignoring well-known coin dealers to accommodate a wealthy patron, and a graver one in bidding in the pieces at less than *bona fide* bids from a party he knew was visiting England to buy a ten thousand dollar cabinet of coins. If Mr. Webster will notify his patron, whose bid was "twenty per cent. higher," that we will take the two half dollars, and allow the "twenty per cent." and said patron hands them over, we shall be willing to forgive, if not forget, the unkind and discourteous treatment received from this London coin dealer.



## OUR SECOND EDITORIAL TOUR.

On December 18, of last year, we left Philadelphia for a second visit to New York, New Jersey and New England, in search of coins and relics, and with a view of forming the personal acquaintance of our patrons in the localities visited. After a brief stay at Jersey City, we arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York, on the 19th, where by appointment we met Wm. Poillon, Esq., an enthusiastic numismatist, and passed a portion of the day in the exhibition and examination of coins, attending an extensive sale of diamonds and coins, at noon, in Chambers street, where we met several well-known collectors, including Strobridge, Balmano, Sampson and others. We left New York for New Haven on the night of the 19th of December, stopping at the latter city the day following, where we visited the principal collectors, among whom were Parsons, Petrie, Gill, Gallagher, Edwards and Stoddard. We had the pleasure of personally inspecting Mr. George Gill's fine collection of American coinage. Adding a few names to our subscription list, we pushed on to Hartford, where we arrived on December 21, and was generously received and entertained by Alfred S. Robinson, Esq., the distinguished gold broker and coin dealer, at whose residence we passed the night, the coldest one we remember, the thermometer being seven degrees below zero. Mr. Robinson nor the writer will not soon forget that bitter, bitter cold midnight we walked from his office to his residence against a head wind, loaded down with a pellisier, crammed with coins, and part the time walking backwards to keep the eyelids, nose and ears from freezing. Carriages could not be had; cars did not run; the frozen ground creaked under our cold hoofs like a new, heavily-laden country sled. December 22, we parted with Mr. Robinson reluctantly. A more whole-souled gentlemen we seldom meet with, and Mr. Robinson parted with his cash to the amount of one hundred and eighty dollars, receiving, in the gladness of his heart, some beautiful and rare coins as a *quid pro quo*.

From Hartford to Springfield, making new acquaintances and patrons as we proceeded, and meeting with kind and cordial greetings, at the latter city, from Nichols, Johnson, Bolen, Newell, Estes, Clogston and a half score more of clever numismatic companions; visited the United States Armory; enjoyed an up-hill and down-hill old-fashioned sleigh ride, remaining two days among our Springfield friends, inspecting cabinets for the future instruction of our readers.

From Springfield to West Brookfield, on the 24th, paying a forced visit to the latter village, having been left in the depot sipping a cup of hot coffee (excellent in its aroma and appetising in its effects), while the cars stole softly away without the usual conductor's alarm cry of "All aboard!" It was late that night, the snow was deep, and a blinding snow storm prevailing; concluded to tumble over on top of a wood box by the side of a glowing healthy-looking old-fashioned wood stove, but a gentleman, with a big coat and small lantern, informed us that he must close up, and that strangers could

find lodging accommodations at a tavern not distant from the depot. We growingly grabbed our leather satchel, weighed down with coins and woe at our benighted prospects, and followed the direction indicated by the watchman's dirty dexter digit, as he opened the rear door and pointed to a light occasionally glimmering like an *ignis fatuus* in the dim and snowy distance. Coins were at a heavy discount just then as we trudged along with our unwelcome load over the fields and road (the deep snow having obliterated all traces of civilization), feeling like the "Wandering Jew," without a habitation or a friend. At one moment, we stepped upon a snow-hidden fence rail, and plunged forward into a snow bank, and the next minute brought up all standing in a ditch with an uncomfortable current of cool liquid bubbling over our boot tops. But all things terminate, and at the height of our extreme misery we reached the tavern, walked up the dilapidated steps, and entered a small room with dirty, dingy walls and broken furniture. Two roughly accoutered men, who might be woodchoppers when engaged in a respectable calling, were interrupted in some little game or conversation; and stared like marble statues at the big, burly, snow-covered stranger who came stamping, stumbling in through the bar room door. "Can a stranger be accommodated with lodging and breakfast here?" was our first inquiry after recovering the proper use of oxygen, and the inquiry seemed very necessary, for the accommodations at first appearance looked scanty enough, except for the two individuals who occupied the greater portion of the room and the only chair in sight. A dirty, greasy, ink-bedabbed book, dubbed on the outside, "Register," was presented in answer to our query, and taking the hint and an apology for a pen, endorsed a record that seemed to have been out of use for two hundred years, and yet a name preceded ours only a few months earlier than the date we recorded. A candle and one of the aforesaid gentlemen preceded us through an entry, up a flight of stairs into a small and poorly furnished room, where we were left without fire or water, in fact, without any of the little necessaries so naturally needed by a weather-beaten and care-worn traveler. Oh, what a night! morning came; as we looked out of the window, over the vast sheet of snow, houses and barns appeared; breakfast was eaten—seventy-five cents paid the bill—and gladly away towards the depot we bent our steps; took the early train for Boston, via Worcester, and enjoyed a good nap in the car seat, having that rest and peace of mind we had not for a moment enjoyed since leaving the cars, the night previous, for that "Ten minutes for refreshments!"

(To be continued.)

#### COIN SALE.

A collection of coins, medals, etc., is now being prepared in this city for public sale. Due notice will be given of the time, and catalogues sent to all our patrons. The sale will take place early in March.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**SUBSCRIBERS.**—D. A. K. A. (3 copies), H. P. A., G. W. B., A. B., W. H. B., J. E. B., T. C., H. McC., R. C. D., L. W. D., G. E., J. G., Jr., Mrs. L. H., A. H., G. B. H., J. H., T. W. P. (club of 10), J. H. 2d, W. J. J., R. K., J. McK., R. A. M., J. J. M., F. J. M., R. W. McL., J. N., O. C. S., G. P., G. P. 2d., L. J. P., L. P., W. H. P., Dr. J. C. P., H. G. P., A. C. D. H., J. F. P., N. R., E. L. R., S. S. R., A. S. R. (2 copies), W. A. S., L. S., F. R. S., J. F. T., A. H. J. (6 copies). All others acknowledged by mail.

**H. R. Jr., MILWAUKEE.**—A correct priced catalogue of the Clay sale will cost you at least five dollars. The N. E. N. Society price list is not correct.

**L. P. R., NEW HAVEN.**—Hereafter please enclose a three cent stamp for each coin ordered the size of the old copper cent. When you order foreign coppers at three cents each, remember the fact that each coin mailed costs us three cents postage. All small orders to go by mail should be prepaid, or we will deduct the postage from the money sent.

**S. P. H., CHICAGO.**—You can get the first edition of Dr. Maris' work on the copper issues of 1794 for twenty-five cents. Second edition out of print.

**M. A. W., BOSTON.**—Orders will receive prompt attention and be always filled, if coins can be obtained.

**W. P. C., OSHKOSH.**—This correspondent corrects an error in December number, viz: "The second cent in my article on varieties should have been 1803 and not 1808. The word *lead* should have been *tend*."

**E. L. PEMBERTON, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.**—It is now nearly four months since we sent you a lot of stamps on approval. Oblige us by saying if you received them, and also if you propose to keep them. (100 1c. Confederate Stamps, lot of United States Envelopes, etc.)

**E. B. T., WATKINS.**—Coins received. Account square. Many thanks. The Continental white metal piece you obtained for \$1 50 is the same that cost us \$2 25 at the Clay sale.

**T. GRACE, PHILADELPHIA.**—The medal you speak of is intended to represent the old State House, as it stood in 1776. The Washington monument in front is entirely wrong.

## NATURAL CURIOSITY.

Drs. D. D. Swift and J. W. Zell, of Lancaster county, Pa., have in their possession a piece of quartz or flint about the size of a man's fist, one side of which reveals a striking resemblance to the face of Washington—the forehead, eyes, nose and chin of the great chieftain being plainly discernible. It is said the likeness is more striking by lamp-light. It was found by John McComsey, of Drumore township, on the road between Bethel and the Unicorn, one evening in last November.

## PAPER MONEY SALE.

The sale of Colonial and Continental paper money, at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s sale rooms, New York, January 31, was well attended, and prices generally ruled low. The Vermont note (excessively rare) sold for thirteen dollars. There was quite a demand for Confederate notes, and, judging by the prices realized and competition manifested, we think the Confederate currency will rise in value as relics of American history.

## TO OLD SUBSCRIBERS.

Additional names of new subscribers to volume sixth of our journal have absorbed nearly all of the January numbers. All those intending to subscribe this year will please hand in their names before the January number is exhausted. All orders hereafter are to be sent to the Assembly Building, corner of Tenth and Chestnut streets, in this city.

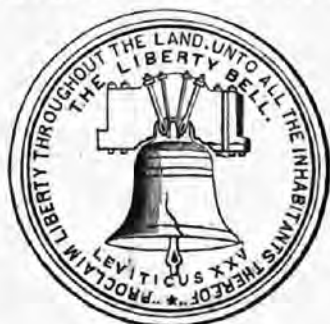
## REMOVAL.

The removal of our place of business to the Assembly Building, in this city, has delayed the appearance of this issue a day or two. We must apologize to our patrons for a want of punctuality in filling orders and neglect in continuing the "Cabinet" article commenced in December number. We hope to make amends, now that our office is in running order, and all orders will hereafter be promptly filled.

## PROOF SETS FOR 1872.

We will mail proof sets for the present year, post paid, for \$4 25.

## INDEPENDENCE HALL AND LIBERTY BELL MEDAL.



We are prepared to furnish this medal at the following prices:-

Silver Proof,	\$3 75
Copper Proof,	75
Brass Proof,	75
White Metal Proof,	50

MASON & Co., Assembly Building, Philadelphia.

MASON'S  
COIN COLLECTORS'  
MAGAZINE.

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

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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-skinned 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 monarchical 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 boastfully 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 Country'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 alee," 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. Porc 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 subtilities, 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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 inconsiderable 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 fortitudes" 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 ayler, 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.

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## 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

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MONTHLY  
COIN COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 6.

FEBRUARY, 1872.

No. 2.

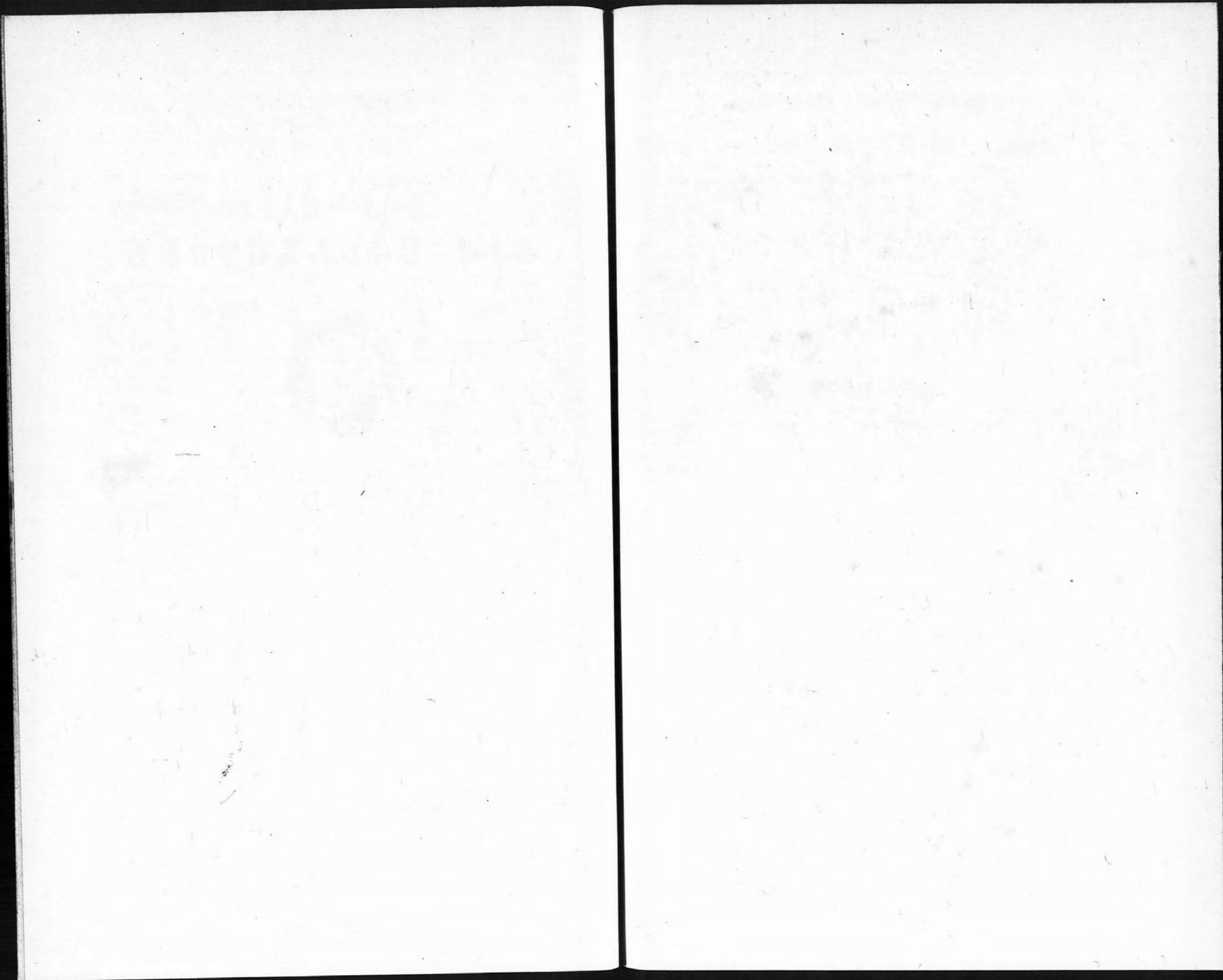
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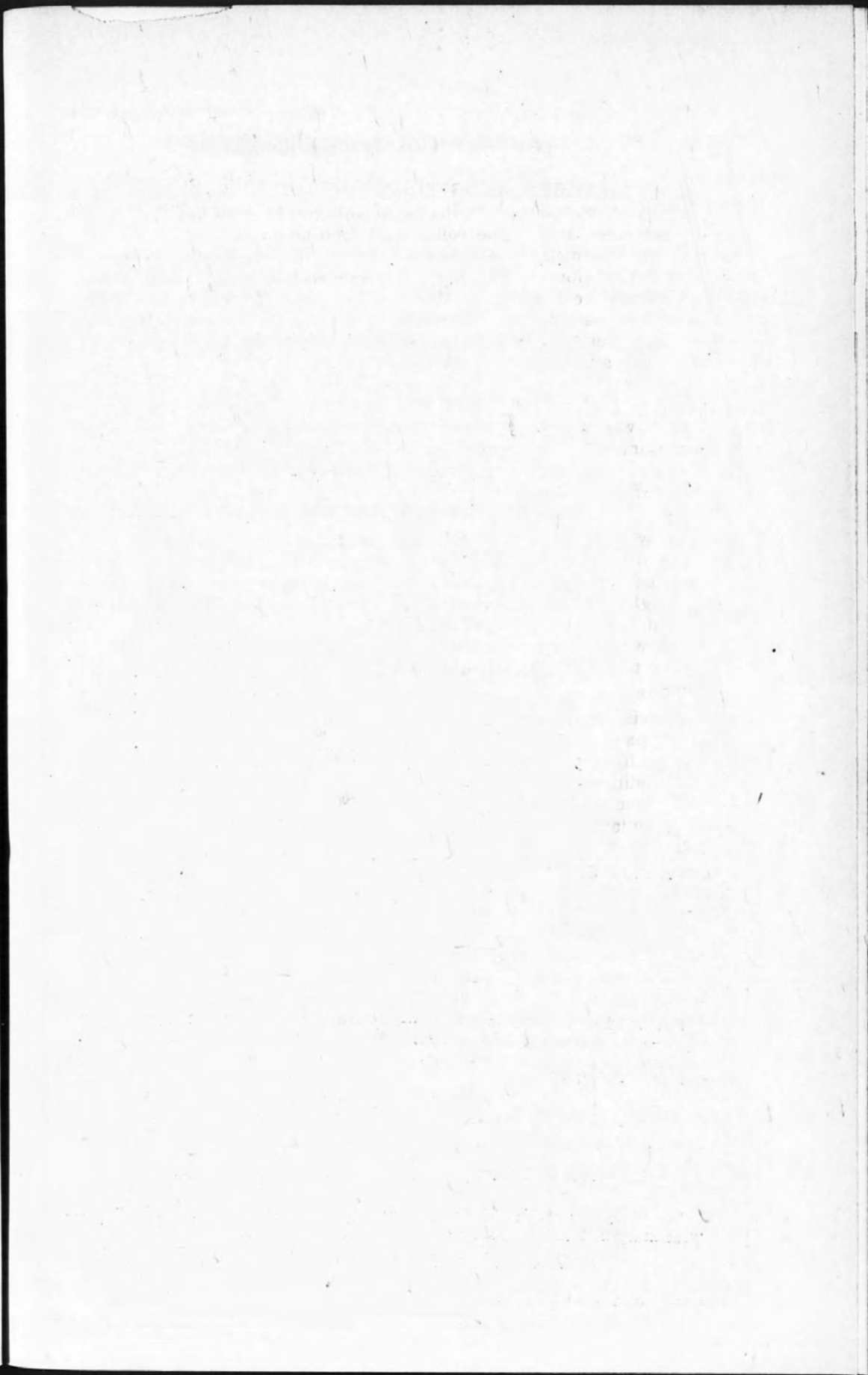
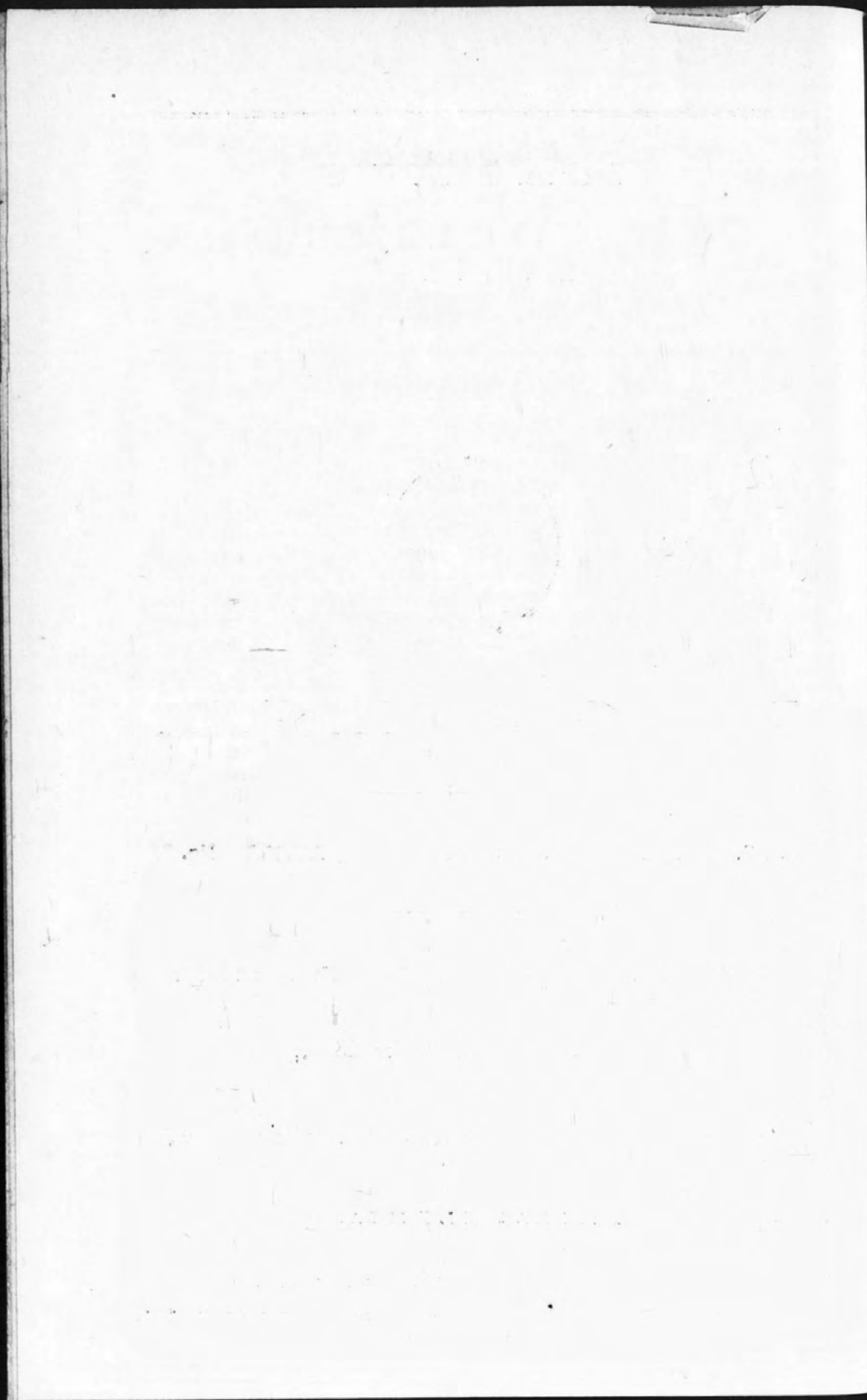
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