A INTERNATION OF THE PART OF THE

ED. FROSSARD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, IRVINGTON, N. Y Published Bi Monthly.

NO. 5

SEPTEMBER, 1878.

 $VOL_{*}2$

ADVERTISEMENTS

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to good.

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- SLAFTER (ED. F.) The Vermont Coinage. Reprinted from the first volume of the Collection of the Vermont Historical Society. Montpelier, 1870. 8vo. 50 copies printed.
- SMYTH (WM. H) Descriptive Catalogue of a Cabinet of Roman Imperial Large Brass Medals. Bedford, 1834. 4to. pp 352. Privately printed. (V 1878, 6s.)
- SMYTH (WM. H.) Descriptive Catalogue of a Cabinet of Roman Family Coins, belonging to the Dake of Northumberland. Lon lon, 1856. 4to. pp. 323. Printed for private circulation. (V 1873, 14s).
- SNELLING (THOMAS) View of the Gold Coin and Coinage of England from Henry III to the present time. London, 1703. Folio. 7 plates.
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La Monnaie dans l' Antiquite, Lecons Professees dans la chaire d' Archeologie pres la Bibliotheque Nationale en 1875-1877. Par, Vol. I. ct II.

Since Eckhel's great work appeared, in 1790-98, many new discoveries have been of inscriptions, and changes in the attribu- Thaver, Sec'y, Burlington, Vt.

tions of a number of coins have caused the want of a complete modern guide to be severely felt. M. Lenormant, a numismatic writer of great ability, has ventured to supply the desideratum. In this work, of which the first two volumes have been published, it is proposed to incorporate the many changes brought about by modern research. The work is to be divided into eight books. The first treats of the origin and propagation of money, its generic terms, and also those numismatic monuments which are not to be described in the work, such as medallions, contorniates and tesserae. Book II describes the metals and other matter used by the ancients in their coinage, tin, lead, glass, &c. In the third book the Laws of coinage and of the mints are noticed. Book IV will contain definitions of the types, symbols and legends which appear upon ancient coins. Book V will be devoted to the inscriptions and the alphabets which compose them. Book VI will treat of the ancient systems of weights and measures. The seventh book will describe the monetary systems of Italy. And finally the coinages of Parthia and India will be examined.

M. Lenormant has undertaken a most diffleult task, but he will produce a valuable and trustworthy book which, for some years to come at least, will be the principal authority of the numismatist. It is to be hoped that the publication of this work will awaken some English on American writer to the fact that there exists no book of its kind in the English language. An abridg-F. Lenormant. Paris, A. Levy, 1878. ed translation of Mr. Lenormants work would be well received.

THE Vermont Numismatic Society will made in numismatics, and Eckhel long ago soon issue a medal, commemorative of the ceased to be an entirely reliable guide. The Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Bendiscoveries of many new coins, new readings mington. For particulars address Dr. C. P.

NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

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TREASURE-TROVES.

The system of banking pursued by our ancestors was of a less complicated nature than that at present in use, and perhaps attended with less risk. It consisted of digging a hole in some secluded spot and therein burying the sum to be deposited. Sometimes persons died leaving large balances in their private banks; and the money thus left is now from time to time dug up, and when thus unearthed becomes a subject of deep interest to numismatists. At a meeting of the Society of Antiquarians of Edinburgh, held during the first week of June last, a notice was read of an extraordinay hoard of silver coins, upwards of 9,000 in number, found in a metal pot on the estate of Montrave Kennoway, Fife, in the month of May, 1877. The pot was exhibited by permission of the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer of Scotland. It contained 9,854 coins. Of these 457 were Scotch, 8,830 English, 141 Irish, 8 Anglo-Gollic, and the remainder foreign sterlings. The Scotch coins consist of one William the Lion penny, 242 pennies of Alexander III, all of the long single cross coinage, 29 pennies of Baliol, 12 of Robert I, and 34 of David II, of whose coinage there were also 124 Edinburgh groats. The English coins consist of 2 Henry short cross pennies and 8,877 sterlings, or pennies of the three first Edwards. Mr. Burns, F. S. A., who read a paper on this remarkable hoard, is of opinion that it must have been hidden sometime about the year 1360. It could not have been long before or long after that date. [Can. Ant. and Num. J.

In the United States the discoveries of hidden coins or treasures, on account of the comparative recent settling of the country, are events of seldom occurrence. We note the two following, not on account of the intrinsic value but rather of the rarity of the coins discovered.

At the foot of 74th St., on the East River, there was recently demolished (July, 1878), an old building forming part of the so-called Riker estate. The workmen while bringing down part of a floor discovered a small iron box, which on being opened was found to contain 22 copper coins. On being submitted to an expert these coins were found to belong to Mohammedan Turkoman Houses and to have been coined near the end of the 12th century. It is supposed that they were brought thither from the East by some former occupant of the house. The coins fell by chance into the hands of the writer who placed them as an interesting addenda in the catalogue of his coin sale to take place at Bangs & Co.'s, on the 6th inst.

Another interesting coin discovery was that of an old cent in good preservation, by a laborer engaged in tearing down an old building at Moravia, N. Y. Mr. George L. Parker, a valued correspondent of ours, and the old coin man of that neighborhood, being quickly summoned by an excited throng of rustic gamins, struck an advantageous bargain with the finder and became the happy possessor of a 1799 cent—the only piece he then lacked to fill up his set of cents.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Collectors wishing to receive a circular announcing a very attractive sale of American medals, American Numismatic literature, bric-a-brac, Indian relies, Washington portraits, eulogies, etc., will please address W. Elliot Woodward, 258 Dudley St. Roxbury, Mass.

"ANOTHER COLV MAN SPEAKS."

Wattsburg, July 26, 1878.

Friend Frossard:-On the 22d of May, last, I made a flying visit to the site of Old Fort Le Bœuf, in pursuit of Indian and other relics. The Fort is situated on the banks of French Creek, or as it was called during the occupancy of the Fort by the French "Riviere aux Boeufs," in what is now the thriving village of Waterford, Pa. Nothing now remains of the Fort except the stone walls of a sort of cellar or underground room, the block house and all wooden work having been burned down some years ago. In 1763 the Indians burned down the Block House, (which was afterwards rebuilt) and was garrisoned at that time by a Sergeant and seven men, who escaped through a secret passage-way that had its outlet in a swamp adjoining Le Beeuf Lake (about 80 rods distant), the Indians supposing at the time that these men were killed when the Block House burned down. It happened to be my good luck to be on hand while some workmen who were digging for gravel on the bank of the creek struck by chance into this secret underground passage from the Fort, of which the location had never been discovered although it was known there was one somewhere. In this passage they discovered a cannon ball, steel French axe, some steel tomahawks, and a few rifle barrels and other parts of rifles. I got the eannon ball, and French axe, and also an Indian pipe, but the tomahawk I could not French Commander in 1753. In the after-great man expired.

noon of the day I was there, we made a search over the old camping ground, and found about 50 flint arrow heads, I stone axe, and 2 old brass buttons, one being I 5-16 in. in diameter, with the Sun in splendor in the center surrounded by 7 stars or lesser suns. I can find no inscription of any kind on the button although it is in good preservation. The other button is 3-4 in. in diameter, with a plain face, as near as I can see, although there is a slight prominence in the center that may have possibly been something, (it has had the eye cut off and been burnt in the fire so that it is black and corroded); on the back near the edge is the inscription G. WASHINGTON, under it is a circle enclosing a Laurel or Olive wreath, while below in very small figures is the date 1753 at each end of which are placed three dots in a triangular position. I think the largest button is French and the other probably came off the coat of Major Washington, by accident perhaps. This place is rich in relics; last summer they dug up 2 Indian skeletons with pieces of the blankets still clinging to them; with one they found a steel scalping knife; rusted to pieces and an Indian pipe bowl which I have in my possession.

> Yours Fraternally, D. O. HALL.

NUMISMATIC PUZZLE.

No correct reply having been received to get. The cannon ball weighs just 6 lbs. but our query of last issue, except by Mr. S. K. I knocked off a good deal of rust out of it, Harzfeld, and that incidentaly and without and it must originally have weighed 8 or 10 laying claim to the reward, we will solve the lbs. The axe is in good preservation and riddle by stating that the Prussian Thaler of weighs exactly 1 1-2 lbs. It is 3 inches wide Fred the Great with date 17 A 86 is called at the bit, 6 inches in length, with a round eye. among German numismatists "mortuary" be-I have a relative living about 1-2 mile south cause the date 17 86 and the mint mark A of Waterford, who owns the place where (Berlin) indicate the day (17th) the month Washington encamped while visiting the (A August) and the year 1786 in which this

COIN SALES.

July 30th and 31st, by Messrs Leavitt & Co., a collection of ancient coins; catalogue by Mr. D. Proskey; published through Messrs. Scott & Co. With many of the defects of its predecessors, this catalogue is yet superior to them because all the old cuts are omitted. Granting the descriptions to have been correct, the prices realized for the ancient coins should have been much higher.

COMING SALES.

On the 6th inst, at Bangs & Co, 656 Broadway New York, a collection of American and foreign silver and copper coins, including fine specimens of the early English, German, and Venetian coinages, a number of rare ancient Roman bronze, and a small selection of Colonial and U.S. Cents. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard.

Orders for this sale will be carefully executed by the following reliable buyers: Edward Cogan, 408 State St. Brooklyn; John W. Haseltine, 1225 Chestnut St. Phila.; S. K. Harzfeld, Times Bldg, Phila.: Henry G. Sampson, cor. Fulton and Broadway, New York; T. R. Strobridge, 1 Gates Ave, Brooklyn; Henry Ahlborn, 33 Exchange Place, Boston, and by the auctioneers. We respectfully ask collectors to accord us their support in this sale and to send their orders, through any of the above named firms. Being short of cata-· lognes, our friends will greatly oblige us if they will send us any duplicates they may have.

Colonial, a unique Vermont cent and other two for \$2.50. rarities. A second collection, equally large, and containing many fine cents and half by American collectors with the same degree

cents, is now in the hands of Mr. Cogan and will be offered at a later period; probably not before November.

The great event of the season will probably be the sale to take place some time at New York, in October, under the management of W. Elliot Woodward, Esq. The catalogue will fill nearly 300 octavo pages, comprising more than 4000 lots, and the sale will occupy 6 days at least. It comprises, first, the Holland collection of medals, numbering about 2300; the Chadbourne collection of store cards, over 2000 in number; a fair. collection of United States coins, about 300 lots; a Canadian collection say 200 lots; an Isle of Man collection, 100 lots; miscellaneous foreign coins, 200 lots; a collection of Confederate and other paper money, 50 lots; Indian pottery, stone implements, etc., 50 lots; Bric-a-Brac, 300 lots.

On Monday evening, 30th inst., at Bangs & Co., a sale of Postage, Match, Medicine, and Revenue Stamps, also Confederate notes and bonds. Catalogue by C. H. Bechtel, Box 77, P. O. New York.

PUBLICATIONS, REVIEWS, ETC.

Monograph of the United States Cents and Half Cents, with 8 plates of coins, copied by the heliotype process from the originals in the Cabinet of Mr. George W. Merritt; by Ed. Frossard. Published by the author at \$2 per copy. [Copy right secured.]

To this is added one plate of extremely rare or unique Colonial Coins copied by the Mr. Ed. Cogan will offer at Bangs & Co., heliotype process from the originals in the from the 16th to 20th of this month, a very cabinet of Mr. Loring G. Parmelee, of Boslarge and fine collection of valuable med- ton, Mass.; arranged by Ed. Frossard. Pubals, coins, etc., among them some beautiful lished (separately) at 50c per copy, or the

The above work will, we hope, be received

ed States metallic currencies have generally coming next. been accepted. Our next number will conall of them from extremely fine or uncirculated specimens.

of America, 1776-1876, by J. F. Loubat, LL. D, etc., 1878, price \$30 00, is for sale by J. W. Bouton, No. 706 Broadway, New York, An early application is necessary to secure copies, as but a very limited edition has been printed.

The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal for July enters with this No. upon the VII year of its useful and successful career, and to appropriately commemorate the event issues a number replete with most interesting and valuable contributions. We are sorry to note that a fire recently occurred in their printer's office, and that many of the back numbers, especially Nos. 2 and 3 of Vol. 1, were destroyed! We also call the attention of our readers to the fact that the present Treasurer of the Society is Mr. G. A. Holmes, whose P. O. address is box 1310, Montreal, and to whom alone subscriptions should be sent.

The American Journal of Numismatics for July, (Vol. XIII, No. 1,) also quietly celebrates its 13th birthday, a la maniere de nos voisins Canadiens, i. e. by issuing a number of which their editing committee may well be proud. Uniting the best talent of the country, its pages have become a faithful narrator of American Numismatic events, and many of its articles will bear the criticisms of the ripest scholars of the old world. The subscription list to the Am. Num. Journal is by

of forbearance and appreciation with which quota of intelligent amateur collectors, many publications treating of the Colonial or Unit- of them subscribers to the American Journal,

Twentieth annual meeting of the American tain a review of the work, with short descrip- Numismatic and Archaeological Society of tions of the 9 plates, which together illus- New York, with the annual address of the trate over 300 obverses and reverses, nearly President, Charles E. Anthon, LL. D., 1878.

This pamphlet contains a detailed account of the proceedings of probably the most in-The Metallic History of the United States teresting meeting ever held by this Society. On this occasion the high regard of the members for their honored President found expression in the presentation to him of a gold medal of membership; a most appropriate gift, and one which no doubt will be more prized by him than the finest antique medallion of his valuable collection. We are indebted for a copy of this pamphlet, and of several other valuable papers to Mr. I. F. Wood, the talented Librarian of the Society.

> Harzfeld's list of Coins, Medals, etc., for sale, Vol. I, No. 1. Philadelphia, May, 1878: Published by S. K. Harzfeld, Times Building, Phila., Pa.

> Foreign Coins, Medals, etc., for sale by John W. Haseltine, No. 1225 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, 1878. Second edition; price 25C.

> Mr. W. E. Woodward has our thanks for his valuable table giving the year of coinage of all American coins, etc.

> List of U. S. Coins actually for sale by Ferguson Haines, P. O. Box 16, Biddeford, Maine.

> Catalogue of United States, Colonial and Foreign Coins, Medals, etc., for sale by G. W. McFarland, Terre Haute, Ind; a neat 16 mo. 8 page catalogue; price, 3 cent stamp.

The metric scale for measuring coins, with scale of sixteenths of an inch reduced to metric scale, (approx.) by W. B. Wetmore, 15 Waverly Place, New York. Mr. Wetmore far the largest of any Numismatic publication is enthusiastic on the subject of replacing the in the United States; Numisma, with its inconvenient and intricate system of American weights and measures by the metric system, and is doing a good deal of effective tanbe of many of the collectors for which work in the right direction.

by J. Henry, 48 Devonshire St., Queen all our time and care. We only had time to Square, London, W. C.

The Curiosity Collector, Vol. 1, No. 2, published by John H. Johnson & Co., 25 Jefferson Ave., at 30 cents per annum.

The Coin Journal, Vol. I, No. 2, published at 10c. per annum, by Chas. Steigerwalt, 130 East King St., Lancaster, Pa.

We receive daily a large number of amateur papers, some of them very ably edited, but they not treating on coins, we are obliged to pass them over in silence, while thanking the various editors for the favors which they know we cannot reciprocate.

R. W. Mercer, 292 1-2 Wade St., Cincinnati, O., price-list of Indian and other relics, books, coins, etc.

Personal.—While at Boston, in the beginning of July last, for the purpose of having the coins of Mr. Geo W. Merritt photographed, we unexpectedly found that it was imperatively necessary to have two specimens of the same coin, in order to obtain a proper impression of the obverse and reverse on the same plate. In our dilemna we applied to Mr. Loring G. Parmelee, who with characteristic confidence and generosity placed his entire collection at our disposal, and allowed us to help ourself freely to anything and everything wanted. When it is considered that Mr. Parmelee scarcely allows himself to handle some of his beautiful specimens, and that beside the risk of transportation and loss, we had to keep the coins for hours amid a lot of horrid acid jars, etc., handling them frequently, the kindness of Mr. P. to us cannot be overestimated. By using all necessary precaution we were able to return the pieces to him exactly as we received them.

It was our intention to make the acquain-Boston is celebrated, but we found that the J. Henry's circular No. XI, 1878, published work in which we were engaged demanded call upon Mr. W. T. R Marwin, whom we found deeply engaged in his scientific work on Masonic Medals; Mr. John C. Schayer, the genial and whole souled collector, who is just now riding the gold hobby, and Mr. Henry Ahlborn, the "Boston Coin man," all of whom treated us most politely, and kindly, and to whom we now extend our grateful appreciations

COINS FOR SALE.

1796 Cent: fillet head; fair, rare\$ 5	0
1797 ; only fair 1	0
1800; another fair piece 1	0
1817; one uncirculated, 50; very fine 4	0
1783 Washington, Unity States; fine 3	0
RARE ENGLISH COINS.	
Sceatta; earliest type, uncirculated	5
	5
	0
Ethelred of Northumb; large penny; short cross;	
1111	0
Ethelred II; erowned head; short cross; uncir. 1 7	5
Same; square pattern piece with uncrowned	
head; long cross and more than double the	
weight, existing, as far as I know in no	
eabinet. Recently discovered in North	
Germany, formerly Denmark. This piece	
will be sent for inspection to responsible	
collectors, and is warranted as represen-	
ted 8	00
Aquitaine; Black Prince, large Hardi; good for	
the period and rare; size 24 mil=nearly	
16 3	
David I, Scotland; Edinburg groat, good 1	
Henry VI; London groat, fine 1	
Same, min grow, mit	40
Helli y 4111, mile groat, we could be the	00
1051, William Collins and the	25
William; Wm. and Mary, halt d. and farthings;	
4 pes, very tarr, the rotter.	30
1756 George II summig, mic	40
1702 The Same, O.L	12
Clearly, III prays tower	03
1812 Bank token for 3s 6 l., fine	00