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III. OLD COIN.—There is deposited by Mr. CHARLES G. NICHOLSON, of J. J. NICHOLSON & SONS, bankers of this city, in the art exhibition, a coin or medal of remarkable antiquity, and which we notice for its rare and exceptional historical interest to numismatists. Its composition is pure bronze and it was coined during the reign of PTOLEMY SOTER of EGYPT. It is somewhat larger than an old Spanish silver dollar and about three times its thickness. The obverse has in bold relief the head of JUPITER AMMON, with the ram's horns and fillet round the head, and the reverse shows the erect figures of two large eagles surrounded by an inscription in Greek. Considering the age of the coin, about 2,200 years, it has been beautifully preserved, the inscription on it being singularly legible and distinct. A host of historical memories are freshened by the possession or sight of this once money representative of a past age. PTOLEMY was born in 367 B. C. and became the founder of the famous Ptolemaic dynasty, which forms one of the most interesting periods of Egyptian History. PTOLEMY SOTER was a natural son of PHILIP II of Macedon and a half brother to the renowned ALEXANDER the Great. In a measure well nigh equal to that

of this celebrated warrior, he inherited the warlike and political abilities of his father. PHILIP of Macedon had conquered EGYPT; but after his death PTOLEMY,* revolting from the almost universal sway of ALEXANDER, seized and held EGYPT as a separate kingdom. His own personal reign extended from 300 to 283 B. C., when he abdicated in favor of his younger son, PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS. It was during the reign, and under the direct patronage of the elder PTOLEMY, that Alexandria, in EGYPT, became so famous as the great emporium of commerce and the chief seat of learning and art. This was also the period of the founding of the celebrated Alexandrian Library, the greatest repository of the literary treasures of the world. Literature at this period began to stand out as a real profession, and very many of the writers of that distant day have left us indelible marks of their greatness. It was also during this reign of PTOLEMY that EUCLID lived and wrote; the mathematician, of whose works most of us have such keen recollections as we recall our school-boy days.—*Baltimore American.*
