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THE MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES.

AMONG THE GREENBACKS.

BY A. D. BICHARDSON.

6

WASHINGTON, August 3 .- Money-who will write its history? It embraces in hundreds of forms the product of mine, forest, field, and factory. It is comprehensive as a cyclopædia and fascinating as a romance.

The currency of barbarism is rude and varions. We know next to nothing of that early, semi-civilized American race whose very name has perished, though our valleys and prairies once teemed with its living millions. Their stone cities in Arizona and New Mexico, their ten thousand earth monuments in the Mississippi Valley, crumble daily under the tooth of Time and razure of Oblivion. But their money, and that of the Indians who succeeded them, usually in rudely ornamented disks shaped like our coin, comprised bone, shell, coal, terra cotta, mica, lead, iron, copper, gold, agate, pearl, jasper, chalcedony, and cornelian.

Our great New Almaden quicksilver mine was known to Aboriginals as "the Cave of Red Earth." The crude cinnebar (of which vermilion is made) passed among them as currency, and was precious for painting their dusky oheeks.

On the Pacific, red men bartered their choicest otter robes for a string of blue beads; on the Atlantic they sold half a State for a belt of wampum. They drove out the mound-builders to the Southwest. Now, in turn, we exterminate them as the whirligig of Time brings in his revenges.

The wealth of earliest civilization is flocks and herds; hence our adjective "pecuniary," from pecus-"cattle." Homer mentions that the armor of Diomed cost but nine oxen, while the lavish Glaucus paid a hundred for his. Britons, at the Norman invasion, had two kinds of money, which they classed as "dead" and "living." The first comprised gold, brass, tin, and iron; the second, cattle and slaves. Our Southrons thrived upon "living" currency till they fired upon Sumter and broke their bank.

One step in advance was leather, the money of the Carthagenians. A few thousands in onedollar notes of sole-leather must have required a warehouse for storage and a ship for trans-portation. Was the office-seeker of Carthage as eager to become Superintendent of the Public Tannery as ours is to be Director of the National Mint? Nails passed as money in Scotland; salt in Abyssinia; dried fish in Ireland; and mulberry bark in "the far Cathay." The latter, in circular pieces, bore the stamp of the sovereign; to counterfeit or refuse it was death.

On the Pacific coast, thirty years ago, hides were cash, and known as "California bank notes." In Oregon, wheat was legal tender at \$1 per bushel. New settlements grow so fast that the little money brought by immigrants is soon exhausted, compelling the use of some local substitute. In Massachusetts, until 1648, corn, live stock, wampum, and musket balls were all legalized currency. The bullets were required to be "full-bore," and passed for one penny each. Of wampum. four beads were a penny. No one was com-pelled to receive either in sums exceeding twelve pence. California, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado had their native gold, coined for convenience in private mints. Cincinnati adopted raccoon skins; St. Louis, furs; other Western colonies land warrants; and old Virginia, tobacco, which pioneer planter wisely invested in the purchase of wives.

Indian traders, at their forts in the far West, used to buy the best buffalo robes for two cups of sugar. Now, robes are cheaper in New York than on the great plains. Texan traders afforded a striking illustration of the way olvilization traffics with barbarism. They put the furs and skins of the savage into one scale, and their own muscle into the other, assertin that the white man's hand weighs half a pound! They exchanged, ounce for ounce, those strips of shining copper, with which the Indian delights to encircle wrist and ankle, for gold, silver, and emerald ornaments and sacred vessels, of which Mexican churches had been despoiled. But in the long run the Comanche usually avenged with the scalpingknife his wrongs at the weighing-beam. Precious metals as money are older than history. Two thousand years before Christ, Abraham, the Chaldean shepherd, whose children have never lost his faith nor his thrift through a hundred and fourteen generations, returned from Egypt, "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." Afterwards, says the Biblical record, he bought the cave of Machpelah-where his bones where to rest beside those of Sarah, the wife of his youth-for "four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." The Catholic version has it, "common, current money." The shekel was about 60 cents of our gold. It was weighed not counted; for there were no mints in those davs. Herodotus asserts that coinage originated with the Lydians. The world's coins, since, have been like leaves of autumn. Most are extinct; but the British Museum preserves more than a hundred and twenty thousand varieties. The Paris collection is still greater, and increased by two or three thousand every year. Our country has no large public accumulation; but the Cabinet of the Philadelphia Mint contains many worth studying. Its medallion memorials of Washington number 216; though not one I believe representing him in battle. It embraces many antique specimens. Here are the self-same coins which pions ancients placed between the cold lips of their dead to pay old Charon for ferriage over the Styx. Here is that very image and superscription of Cæsar which the Judsean Carpenter pointed out to the fishermen and tent-makers following him. Here are faces of rulers and captains down to our day from Alexander of Macedon, and the mightiest Julius who bestrode this narrow world like a Colossus.

back to the origin of the practice of coining in their respective countries:-I. The silver coin of Ægina, a Greek island, is gene-rally estimated as having been colled seven conturies before the Christian ers. We call ours moy years old. The tetradrachm of Athens is farther down, perhaps the conturies two centuries. 2. The golden darie of Persia, coined by Darius, but which one of that name is uncertain. Its age is doubi-

The golden darie of Persis, coined by Darius, but which one of this name is uncertain. It age is double is 250 years.
The bronze trians (one-third of the as or Roman pound) of the young republic of Rome, is about the same age as the dark.
A couple of centuries tarther down the dates become more definite. Generally a scope of a few years must be allowed; but in some cases the exact year of coinage can be accented.
The question. "How many varieties, counting the different dies of American public coins, have circulated?" probably cannot be answered by anyood; circulatly no two answers would be answered by anyond; sirrally the subject has been faithfully stadled and largely written upon, and yet much remains uncertain. Collectors often make a trivial variation the probable to give an answer on this point.
Bergeennity yours, etc., We are cullrely anable to give an answer on this point.

Respectfully yours, etc., H. R. LINDERMAN, Director of the Mint, American money-coins must have numbered nearly 1600. The earliest was a brass penny, struck in the Bermudas in 1612 for the Virginia colony. In William and Mary's reign copper pennies made in London for our Northern and Southern settlements bore the mottoes: -"God preserve New England !" "God preserve Carolina and the Lords Proprietors !" Massachusetts authorized silver coinage in 1652, and other colonies soon after.

In 1786 Congress adopted our present system, from the \$10 piece down. It originated with Thomas Jefferson, that many-sided man -born of aristocracy, yet an incarnate demo-crat-reared in the wilderness, yet graced with every accomplishment - interested alike in natural science, farming, music, architecture, and government-designing the Capitol of his native State, adding half our present territory to the Union, and leaving for his monument the proud record :- "Founder of the University of Virginia, author of the Statute of Religious Freedom and the Declaration of Independence."

"Mill" was from the Latin mille, one thousandth of a dollar; "cent" from centum-one-hundredth; "dime" (formerly written disme) from decem-one-tenth; "dollar" from the German dahler, or thaler, and "eagle" from our chosen bird. We selected an American species; but the eagle had already figured in old mythologies, Roman, Greek, Hindoo, and Scandinavian, and on many a martial standard from the Etruscans to the Poles. Franklin always cavilled at it as our national emblem, on the ground that this thief and pirate of the air subsists by preying upon the defenseless. The fathers long debated whether to adopt the eagle or the rattlesnake. In favor of the latter they plausibly urged that he never attacks until molested, and never strikes without giving his enemy fair warning. Upon early devices he occupies the place of honor, sometimes with the significant inscription:-"Don't tread on me?" A Continental note even represents him as giving the death-stroke to an at-tacking eagle. Modern days reverse the picture. Now the official seals of Mexico and New Mexico both exhibit the dishonored reptile in the clutches of the victorious bird.

Our first Federal coin-one cent, struck in New Haven-bore the wholesome injunction : "Mind your own business !" There is a legend, "interesting if true," that when legend, Washington saw his face upon the earliest silver dollar, he peremptorily ordered the dies to be destroyed. Cents and half dollars of 1791-92 still bear his profile. The first head of Liberty on our coin bore the features of Martha Washington.

"Bank" we get from banco, a bench; because in Italian towns Jewish money-lenders. in the yellow bonnets which law compelled them to wear, used to drive their hard bargains upon long wooden seats in the marketplaces. The Bank of Venice, the first in Europe, was established in 1171, to aid Governments in raising funds for the Crusades. It was a monetary Methuselah, and flourished for more than six hundred years. Its earliest paying-teller, perhaps, counted out shining florins to Richard the Lion-Hearted. Its latest may have cashed a draft for John Quincy Adams. There, "Signor Antonio" must have kept his account; and the bank's refusal to discount his little note-the mere bagatelle of three thousand ducats for ninety days-is shrouded in mystery. Possibly "Shylock," and old Tubal, that wealthy Hebrew of his tribe, had been fomenting a panic about him. Shakespeare avers that the merchant was good; but then the poet was no money-lender. In Hamlet he even offers to advance a thousand pounds to the ghost, without an indorser-a security unknown to Wall street, and doubtless to the Rialto. At last the Bank of Venice fitly fell, with the hundred-isled city. It was overthrown when that gorgeous Queen of the Adriatic yielded her crown to the revolutionary armies of France. The Bank of England was founded during a French war in 1694 to aid William and Mary, who had been paying 40 per cent. a year for loans. Both our old United States Banks-like our present National systemwere also born of disorders which war had produced in Government finances. It required a cart and a yoke of oxen to hanl \$100 of the iron money of Lycurgus. Now, the boyish messenger of a National bank skips down Broadway with a million of currency in his little sack. And Samuel Rogers, banker and poet, had a note for one million pounds sterling framed and hung in his parlor. Why did he not sing the Pleasures of Possession rather than the "Pleasures of Memory "" In the Congressional Library is a rare old scrap-book filled with antique specimens of American paper currency. They number 260, though few of the early issues are there, and none come down to the adoption of the Constitution. A full collection until now would probably reach 10,000 notes, public and private. The earliest simply bears the words :- "One Penny. Massachusetts. June, 1722." It has no signature, and its execution would not serve us for the label of a match-box. Then follow issues of the other colonies. New Jersey notes, authorized in 1728, were engraved by one Benjamin Franklin, then a journeyman printer of 22. He also fashioned a hand-press for striking them off. That runaway Boston apprenticethat leather-aproned Philadelphia editor-mechanic and diplomat-jester and statesmantrader, inventor, patriot, philosopher, philau-thropist-how his name is written all over our colonial and Revolutionary history! The rude devices of that era represent shaky crowns; ships building upon stocks infirm of purpose; white men and Indians, cheated of eature by dissembling engraver, sent into this printing world scarce half made up. In '76 the name of "His Gracious Majesty King George the Third" suddenly disappears, and pounds and shillings change to dollars and cents. A Georgia note promises to pay \$30 within twelve months, out of "moneys arising from the sale of forfeited estates." Does that mean confiscation ? Continental bills bear sundry intimations that the mother country wages a hopeless war: a wild boar running at the point of a spear; a hand grasping brambles and the like. Some are ingeniously printed in colors. A few are counterfeits, and altered. Dingy old notes, creased, mutilated, soiled, they are still "filthy," but no longer "lucre." Bits of coarse, worthless paper now! Yet men schemed, and toiled, and wore out lives, and committed orimes to get them! And others endured, and suffered, and died for want of

Similar reflections will move the long-prophealed New Zealand archaeologist. All day he shall stand on the never-finished Washington Monument, to sketch the rains of Wil lard's Hotel. But at night, by his camp-fire on Pennsylvania avenue, he will scan with sentimental eye the great scrap-book of our paper currency. Remembering the gorgeous notes of the one hundred and fifteenth National Bank at Auckland that line his pocketbook, he will wonder at the rude art which stamped the heads of Chase and Fessenden, McCulloch and Spinner, on these plain, tattered, antique bills and bonds of the year of grace 1867. And on getting home from his explorations he will rush to the library of the New Zealand Antiquarian Society, and hunt the well-thumbed files of the Tribune for the only authentic record of their history. It runs in this wise :--

In 1861 our first greenbacks were printed by the New York Bank Note Companies, and Treasurer and Register signed them here with their own proper hands. But the infant army, that financial "Oliver Twist," was always clamoring for "More." Spinner was no Bria-racus the hundred-handed, and Chittenden could not devote more than twenty-four hours a day to his own autographs. So Congress authorized them to sign by proxy. Then the issue grew till seventy clerks, at \$1200 a year, were kept busy in writing their own in lieu of these officers' names. But so many different hands destroyed all the value of signatures. They were no more protection against fraud than the type (make it large and leaded, O Autocrat of the Sanctum !) in which this discursive letter is printed. And the Secretary knitted his broad brow in sore perplexity.

There was a keen-eyed Superintendent of Constructing the Public Buildings, named S. M. Clark. A Vermont Yankee, and true to his nativity, he had done a little of everything, and could make anything. Just now he was at leisure; the nation needed no new edifices till arms should decide whether it was a nation. He proposed fac-similes of the signatures, and also of the Treasury seal, to be engraved and printed on the notes in peculiar ink, and by a peculiar process. Chase, under sanction of Congress, adopted the suggestion. Then Spinner was the hundred-handed. He could sign with a rapidity limited only by the capacity of lightning presses.

Notes came to the Department in sheets of four each. Seventy-five girls, every one armed with her shears, trimmed and separated them by hand. Clark, the revolutionist, declared this ought to be done by machinery, and, more to the point, that he could make the machines himself. Fogies pooh-poohed. Cut bank notes apart, and trim their edges by steam? Utterly impossible ! Besides, it would be too expensive, and would take bread from these worthy women. But the Secretary said "Go ahead;" so the Yankee coaxed his brain, and burned the midnight oil. In two months he brought in two trial machines, worked by a crank. The clerk to whom they were referred inspected and reported them failures. Chase ordered them removed from the building. But what inventor ever acquiesced in the slaughter of his own progeny ? This one implored the Secretary, "Come and examine for yourself !"

Chase did examine, and found that these marvellous automata, with cunning fingers of steel, not only did the work perfectly, but reduced its cost more than four-fifths. He in-He instantly rescinded the order, placed Clark in charge of the cutting and trimming, and assigned him rooms for the purpose. That was the origin of the Printing and Engraving Bureau of the Treasury Department. On the 29th of August, 1862, Mr. Clark began, as-sisted by one man and four women. Now his Bureau has 21 subordinate superintendents, nearly 600 employés, occupies 74 rooms, and has turned out sixty millions of dollars in a single day. But it has fought for every step. It would

have perished long ago, had it not adopted the principles of the Prize Ring, and struck

stamps for cigars and beer barrels; does the t general printing of the Treasury Department, and manufactures its wrapping paper and envelopes. It is in contemplation to make bank-note paper also. For this purpose the light-est, finest fabric is best-just as a silk handkerchief will stand more wear and tear than a coarse napkin.

coarse hapsin. The Post Office Department (chief, Alexan-der W. Randall, of Wisconsin), contains a room boldly labelled, "Depredation Office." It is devoted, not to committing depredations, as the inscription might signify, but to investigating them. So the Treasury has one branch over which might be written, "Counterfeiting Office." Most spurious plates, sooner or later, find their way here. A large detective force is employed in ferreting out counterfeiters. These have ramifications all over the Union. They are chiefly ensnared through their own confederates, ever ready, for a consideration, to betray them, and falsify the proverb of "honor among thieves." Hundreds are sent to Penitentiaries yearly; but they find it easy to get pardoned out.

When a counterfeit is presented at the Bank of England, the gold is instantly paid for it. If it comes from some known person he is only asked where he got it. If from a stranger the cashier signals to his detective, always in waiting, and the officer follows secretly. Before many hours the bank is in possession of the stranger's biography. The offender, once arrested, is likely to be tried, convicted, and sentenced within two days; wherefore Great Britain is not an inviting field for that branch of industry.

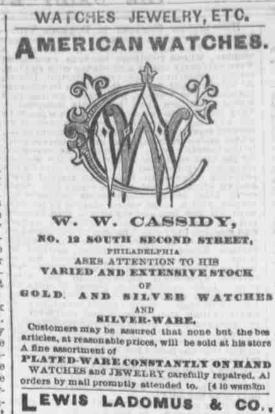
American counterfeiters are thoroughly organized, and adopt the great national principle-division of labor. They have classes quite separate and distinct, for engraving, printing, signing, and putting in circulation. The latter issue circulars to known dealers all over the country, offering the "queer" (their flash term for counterfeit money) usually at about thirty cents on the dollar. They have their spy system, too, and look out sharply for officers. Lately a detective mailed \$10 to the address given in one of these circulars, asking the return of its value in "queer." The vigilant counterfeiter, penetrating the disguise, replied that he did not sell to stool pigeons, but yet felt bound in common courtesy to retain the officer's little contribution to his exchequer! The discomfited detective now shakes his head, and sighs with Juliet:-"Too early seen unknown and known too late." But the facetious scoundrel gleefully apostrophizes his unlooked-for "Ten":---

"Green be the back upon thee, Friend of my better days !' -N. Y. Tribune.

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N OTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE N partnership lately subsiding between JAMES C. ROBERTS, JONATHAN B. ROBERTS, and JOHN R. KIPLE, under the firm of JONATHAN B. KOBERTS & CO., was dissolved on (this) the 20th day of July, 1867. All debts owing to the said part-nership are to be received by the said JAMES C. ROBERTS, and all demands on the said partnership are to be presented to him for payment. JAMES C. ROBERTS, J. B. ROBERTS, 7 20 6t^{*} JOHN R. KIPLE. FOR SALE. GERMANTOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE CHEAP.-House, 11 rooms, newly papered, and painted; gas, hot and cold water; location high and well sinced; lot 30 by 110 feet, Terms easy. Imme-diate possession. Apply at WILSON'S Tea Ware-house, No. 238 CHESNUT Street. 61 ti WANTS. BOOK AGENTS IN LUCK AT LAST.

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WILLIAM MASON.

The courteous officer now at the head of the Mint, in response to my questions, states the Interesting features of this collection so clearly and succinetly, that I take the liberty of giving his entire letter:-

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES. PHILADELPHIA, July 21, -Sir:-Your loguirles have given occasion to a fresh enumeration of our cabinet coins, with the fol-

190-837

2408

420

821

200

192

4908

FOREIGN-Modern: Colos in the Roman char-actor, including Central and South Ame-rica, and Europe (except Turkey and West Indies)......

West Indies), ORIENTAL-Colns of Asia, and European Tur-key, in Arabic and othar characters, in-cluding China and Japan, and the me-disyral Cuffe and Caliphate, also North-ern Afeica

MURCELLANEOUS.

419...784

Whole number of pleces 5684

out vigorously from the shoulder. Its very existence is a vindication of the noble art of self-defense. It had to encounter the prejudice against Government's engaging in any sort of manufactures-usually just, for the more employés, jobs, patronage, the more corruption. This case was exceptional. The Treasurer could not go into open market for his engraving and printing. The Bank Note Companiesthen but two, now three - were gigantic monopolies. They made the paper money of North and South America. They offered no competition. There was work for both; they charged their own prices, and would not underbid each other. Greenbacks proved a Golconda to them.

Shares, below par, rose to high premiums. One made dividends of 30 per cent. a year, on its immense neminal capital of \$1,250,000. In all, Government has paid these three companies over \$3,000,000. But every piece of work done in Washington was so much taken from their receipts. Hence, arrayed against the Bureau was this gigantic money-power, working in a hundred ways-on the floor of Congress, in the Departments, on Wall street, and through the printing press. In its favor was only the less zealous aid springing from the belief that it served the public interest.

The currency required the very choicest execution. Tolerable bank-note engravers abound; but of first-class workmen there are less than 20 in the United States. The com panies employed them all, binding them by long contracts, and the moment a new one arrived from abroad, pouncing on him like a hawk. Once Clark posted over to New York, to see a skilful designer from England by special appointment. He found that officers of the leading bank-note company had preceded him by a few minutes at the place of meeting, and with an unusual salary had secured his man.

The President of another corporation brought written charges against Clark's character. Congressional committee investigated and declared them wholly unsupported by proof. The companies refused to give up the dies and plates for printing here. Once this controversy waxed so warm that they packed them for sending abroad, lest the Secretary should obtain them by process of law. The New York companies still print the

greenbacks and the issues of the National Banks. But this competition has brought down their charges for engraving 75 per cent. and for printing 50 per cent, below what the Government paid them in '62. The work could readily be done here, but there are 1700 National Banks. Were the printing transferred now, if any spurious notes from the genuine plates should get in circulation, a question might arise as to whether they were tampered with while in the custody of the companies or of the Department. The Comptroller of the Currency declines that respon sibility. So they are printed in New York, and expressed here, to be separated, trimmed, numbered, and stamped with the Treasury seal. One package upon arrival proved to contain \$8000 more than it was marked and invoiced. Long the company stoutly denied Another the mistake, but at last owned up. Another package contained an excess of \$100,000, but

that error was speedily acknowledged. Clark's Bureau, besides finishing these notes, Clark's Bureau, besides finishing these notes, engraves and prints all our bonds, coupons, fractional currency, and Internal Revenue ATTAC WY LEAD