WITHOUT THE RIGHT RING.

PICKING OUT COUNTERFEITS IN AMERICAN COINS.

The Imitations of Gold, Silver, and Other Pieces and How They are Made and Detected.

Mr. Dickerman, of the *United States Treasury Counterfeit Detector*, has been giving a New York *Times* reporter some valuable and interesting information about the various counterfeits of United States coins: "There are," he said, "twenty distinct coins of the United States. Five of these are nickel, or nickel, copper, and bronze; nine are silver, and six are gold. All but one have been counterfeited again and again. The gold coins are the double eagle or twenty-dollar piece, the eagle, half eagle, three-dollar piece, quarter eagle, and dollar. The double eagle, fresh from the mint, weighs 516 grains, or more than 100 grains more than the standard silver dollar. An abrasion of 2.58 grains is allowed before the coin is classed as a counterfeit, or rather 'light weight,' and unless artificially reduced it should continue current half a century. Coinage of double eagles was begun in 1850, and up to June 30, 1883, 48,859,502 pieces had been issued. The only counterfeit of the double eagle so far discovered is of the 1850 issue. It weighs 360 grains, and is composed of 571 parts of gold, 85 of silver, and 344 of copper. Its actual value is $8.83. It is lighter in appearance than the genuine, though thicker. The reeding and milling are defective, as is the case with most counterfeit coins.

The coinage of eagles began in 1793, and up to June 30, 1882, 15,109,272 pieces had been issued. The coin weighs just half as much as a double eagle, will stand a proportionate abrasion, and ought to continue current thirty-five years. Prior to 1834 the mint weight of the eagle was 270 grains. Counterfeits of five issues of the eagle are in circulation, namely of the issues 1841, 1847, 1849, 1855 and 1880. That of 1847 is the most dangerous, as it weighs only six grains less than the genuine.

"The genuine half eagle weighs, when it leaves the mint, 129 grains, and will stand a reduction of .64 grain. It ought to remain current twenty years. Coinage of the half eagle was begun in 1793, and up to June 30 of last year 59,913,196 pieces had been put forth. There are thirteen counterfeits of the half eagle, some of which are well executed and very dangerous. The counterfeits are of the issues of 1800, 1803, 1839, 1843, 1844, 1847, 1848, 1841, 1855, 1858, 1869, 1875, 1881, (two) and 1882.

"There are no counterfeits of the three-dollar gold piece, which was first coined in 1854, and weighs 77.4 grains. The maximum of abrasion is .38 grain. The quarter eagle was first coined in 1796, and ought to last fifteen years. It weighs 64.5 grains, and the limit of abrasion is .32 grain. There are seven counterfeits six of which were made in molds and are from 16.6 to 24.5 grains light. They are of the issues of 1849, (two counterfeits,) 1844, 1846, 1852 and 1861. A counterfeit of 1862 is made of platinum, is only half a grain light, and can only be detected after the plating has worn off or by acid. It is the only dangerous counterfeit quarter eagle.

"Gold dollars were first coined in 1849 and up to June 30 of last year 19,371,364 pieces had been issued. The mint weight is 25.8 grains, and the limit of abraison is .13 grain. There are counterfeits of the issues of 1831, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1861. The first four weigh, respectively, 17, 14, 24 and 15 grains. They are made in a mold, and are heavily plated. The last three weigh, respectively, 13, 14, and 15 grains. They are made of brass and bronze, and, like all the counterfeit gold dollars, may be readily detected by their light weight and general appearance."

"All this is very interesting," said the reporter, "but there are several persons who don't handle enough gold to be alarmed at the prevalence of counterfeits. What about silver?"

"Every silver coin now in circulation has its counterfeits. Even the buzzard dollar has not been deemed unworthy of imitation. Trade dollars were coined from 1873 to 1878. They weigh 420 grains. Every issue has been extensively counterfeited. Most of the counterfeits are over 100 grains light and have a soapy, greasy feeling. They are made of type metal and pulverized glass. The two most dangerous counterfeits of the trade dollar are dated 1877, and bear the mint marks, "s" and "c c." They are only three grains light and are actually worth fifty-seven cents. They are made of silver, mercury and German silver, and, except for a defective ring, are nearly perfect. Standard dollars were first coined in 1794, and then as now the raint weight was 412.5 grains. Many of the old issues were counterfeited. The composition used was generally German silver. Others were made of brass and plated with genuine silver. Coinage of the Bland standard dollar was begun in 1878. All the issues since that time have been extensively counterfeited, the usual composition being antimony and lead, heavily plated. They are made in a mold and are usually 100 grains light. There are, however, several counterfeits of the standard dollar which are nearly full weight and are very dangerous. They are almost perfect imitations. The ring is a little defective. Half dollars prior to 1837 weighed 208 grains. From 1837 to 1853 the weight was 206.25 grains. The present weight is 192.9 grains. There are probably more counterfeits of half dollars afloat than of any other coin. Most of them are made of brass, lead, pewter and type metals in varying combinations and proportions. The most dangerous counterfeit halves bear date of 1841, 1842, 1843, 1845, 1849, 1857, 1859, 1860, 1872, 1875, 1876 and 1877. Most of these coins are lighter than the genuine and have a sharp ring, as if they were made of glass. The milling and reeding is defective, and the lettering on the shield of the Goddess of Liberty is not good.

"A genuine silver quarter dollar weighs 96.45 grains. Prior to 1837 the weight was 104 grains, and from 1837 to 1853 the weight was 103.125 grains. The most dangerous counterfeits are of 1853, 1854, 1855, 1857, 1858, 1860 and 1861. Brass, tin, pewter and lead are the materials generally used. The counterfeits are made in a mold, and except that the reeding and milling is defective, and that the later counterfeits have a greasy, slippery feeling, they are not easily detected.

"The coinage of twenty-cent pieces began in 1875 and closed in 1878. The genuine coin weighs 77.16 grains and the few counterfeits which have been put in circulation are very poor pieces of work. Counterfeit dimes are very common, brass, pewter, and lead being generally used. The genuine coin weighs 38.58 grains. The counterfeits are usually very rough looking coins. The half-dime weighs 19.29 grains. A few wretched counterfeits are in circulation. Coinage of the genuine began in 1793 and ceased in 1873. Counterfeits of the three-cent piece are usually well plated and calculated to deceive. Coinage of three-cent pieces began in 1851 and ceased in 1873. The weight is 11.52 grains.

"The minor coins of the United States are the five, three, two and one cent pieces. All but the twos have been counterfeited. There is a dangerous counterfeit of the five-cent piece of 1875, made of the same material as that used in the United States Mint. Coinage was begun in 1866 and still continues. The standard weight of the coin is 77.16 grains. Coinage of three-cent pieces began in 1865 and still continues. The standard weight is 30 grains. There are numerous counterfeits, but as most of them are made in a mold they are easily detected. Fives and threes are made of nickel. Two-cent pieces were first coined in 1864. The coinage ceased in 1873. The weight is 96 grains. Copper cents were first coined in 1793, and there are no dates later than 1857. The weight is 48 grains. Most of the counterfeits were made for the cabinets of numismatists. The genuine coin is composed of copper, nickel, and bronze.

"The United States Mint test for silver is a solution composed of 24 grains of nitrate of silver, 20 drops of nitric acid, and one ounce of water. A drop will blacken a counterfeit, while it will have no effect on silver."

A Mine of Mummies.

In the northeastern delta of the Nile, on the banks of a canal which connects Zagazig with Lake Menzaleh, are found two places named San—Arab San and San-el-Hagar. San-el-Hagar — perhaps the most extraordinary spot in Egypt—is a city of the dead. It was a magnificent capital, more splendid in some respects than Thebes. The canal was then a noble river. The neighboring lake was a fertile plain studded with towns and temples. Now the city, as its name indicates, is a heap of ruins. San-el-Hagar means "San of the Stones." Its ancient name was 'Tsan. We find it so written in the hieroglyphs. The Hebrews converted 'Tsan into Tanis. The place remained unexplored till the late Marietta Pacha, with small means and few men, first attacked the site of the principle temple in 1861. From time to time, when a few hundred of francs could be spared from other enterprises, he continued the work, and his efforts were rewarded by this discovery of a vast treasure of broken obelisks, sphinxes, shrines, architraves, columns and statues of gods and kings. Some few of these statues (most notably those attributed by Mariette to the Hyksos period) have been transported to the Boulak museum. Some have found their way to the Louvre. The rest, in countless profusion, yet lie as when first unearthed; heads, trunks, giants limbs scattered, piles overthrown, like a battle ground of Titans turned to stone. Thus Mariette left the scene of his labor, and thus it has remained ever since his death. Such is the site which the Egypt Exploration Fund (now in the second year of its existence) after some negotiation with the Egyptian Government has undertaken to explore. Mr. Flinders Petrie is engaged in prosecuting the excavations.

The prophesied Pompeii has begun to yield up its buried treasures and the necropolis its buried dead. The remains of the new temple of Ptolemaic date have been identified and antiquities of various descriptions have turned up in considerable numbers.

The Cingalese.

All the people in Ceylon, from babes just "feeling their feet" to old men and women, their steps tottering on the brink of the grave' wear gold and silver ornaments. They even invent new places for carrying them, and it is no uncommon thing to see a Cingalese belle with the top of her ears covered with gold plate or wire, a large pair of rings pendant from the lobes of the ear, a gold or silver circlet round her hair, her nose adorned with rings, bracelets on her wrists, rings on her fingers, and silver plates on her toes. This is the perfection of adornment; but in one or other of the fashions, or in several of them, the Cingalese woman, of whatever station in life, is set forth. I saw running out of a house a sturdy little boy two years of age who had nothing on but a silver key fastened around his waist by a girdle of silver wire. The men take their pleasure less expensively. They delight in gold earrings and rings, but beyond this are contented to intrust the recommendation of their personal appearance to a fine tortoise shell comb of circular shape, set on the crown of their heads, with the ends toward the forehead. The men evidently pride themselves on their hair, which is generally drawn back from their forehead and tied in a neat knot at the back. As they wear earrings, and not always whiskers or mustache, it is not easy at first sight to distinguish a man from a woman.—*Good Words.*

What a Bather Can Do in Salt Lake.

A bather can lie on the surface of the water of the Great Salt lake without exertion; or, by passing a towel under his knees and holding the two ends, he can remain in any depth of water kneeling, with the head and shoulders out of water; or, by shifting it under the soles of the feet, he can sit on the water. The one exertion, in fact, is to keep one's balance; none whatever is required to keep afloat. The only danger, therefore, arises from choking by accidentally swallowing some of the water, for the strength of the brine is so intense that the muscles of the throat are convulsed, and strangulation ensues.—*Salt Lake Herald.*

California's wheat crop has for years been more valuable than her yield of gold, which is likely to be soon beaten also by her fruit.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

A Louisville (Ky.) firm has made a $2,000 watch for an Indian quack doctor.

An eagle shot in Lapland had attached to it a tin box containing a scrap of parchment on which was written: "Caught and set free in Falsted, Denmark, 1792."

The original Mexicans, it is said, lived in a country north of California until about the year A. D. 1160, when they began their migration southward toward the country of Anahuac. After a temporary residence at several intermediate places, they arrived on the borders of Lake Tezacuco, and founded a city. They first erected a temple for their god, Huitzlopcchti, around which they built huts of reeds and rushes.

King Charles I., of England, had a favorite dwarf named Richard Gibson, who was hardly more than a yard high, and the king's wife, Queen Henrietta, had a lady-dwarf who was exactly the same height, and these two little people were married to each other. The king and queen were at the wedding; the queen gave the bride a little diamond ring as a bridal-gift, and the court poet wrote a poem about the marriage.

The faces of Europeans, as a rule, are broader than those of Americans. The common distance in this country between the centers of the eyes is three and three-eighths inches, but among foreigners it is three inches and a half. Sometimes this is increased from one to three-eighths of an inch more. If spectacles are worn with the frames too narrow, the focus of one eye conflicts with that of the other, and an effect is produced very similar to that of being cross-eyed.

Optical Illusions.

Frank Bellew says in *St. Nicholas:* Many of you know about optical illusions, and the curious mistakes which the eye sometimes makes concerning an object at which it is looking; but few of us know how frequently we ourselves are the victim of optical delusion of one sort or another. The fact is, we see nearly as much with our experience as we see with our eyes. We know an object to be of a certain form in one position, and of a certain color in one light; and we are too apt to fancy that we see it of that form and color in all positions and lights, regardless of the fact that, seen from another standpoint, the contour of it may appear entirely different, and that a different light may totally change the color of it. We all know that the actual color of clean boots is black, and a beginner in painting almost always paints them perfectly black, whereas the direct rays of the sun or of an artificial light may make them appear nearly white in parts; while if they be placed near some bright substance, such as a piece of orange peel, or a crimson scarf, they will reflect the color of that object, and so become orange or red in parts, and an expert painter would so represent them. We hear people speak of "the white of the eye," and beginners with the brush often give a very ghastly expression to their attempts at portrasture by painting the white of the eye pure white; whereas, owing to the projection of the brows, the lids, and the lashes, it is often thrown into deep shade, and may be even darker than some of the flesh tints. Now, if their eyes were trained like those of a skilled artist, they would know the true color of all ocjects they beheld. But this is the very hardest thing an artist has to learn, namely, to know really what he does see.

In coloring, almost everything depend upon the nature of the light. A white handkerchief is black in a dark room.

An excellent aid to the study of color is to take a white card, and with your paints try to match on it some tint in any oil painting, chromo, or even colored fabric which you may have. Then cut a small hole in the card adjoining your tint, and place the card over the tint you have copied, so that you can see it through the hole, side by side with your own attempt. Then you will see at once how nearly you have matched the tint.

Proof of Death.

If most people are afraid of anything, it is of being buried alive. That cases do happen where it is very difficult even for the experienced physician to determine whether a person is really or but apparently dead, without his having recourse to means which, while they would at once settle the dispute, would place life, if it really still existed, in jeopardy, may be judged from the fact that the French academy, some ten or fifteen years ago, offered a prize of 40,000 francs ($8,000) for the discovery of some means by which even the inexperienced may at once determine whether in a given case death had ensued or not. A physician obtained the prize. He had discovered the following well-known phenomenon: If the hand of the suspected person is held toward the candle or other artificial light, with the fingers stretched, and one touching the other, and one looks through the spaces between the fingers toward the light, there appears a scarlet red color where the fingers touch each other, due to the still circulating fluid blood, as it shows itself through the transparent, not yet congested tissues; but when life is extinct, this phenomenon at once ceases. The most extensive and thorough trials established the truth of this observation, and the prize was awarded to its discoverer.—*Health and Home.*

Both the Mason & Hamlin organs and pianos excel chiefly in that which is the chief excellence in any musical instrument, quality of tone. Other things, though important, are much less so than this. An instrument with unmusical tones cannot be a good musical instrument. Yet all are not good judges of such a matter. An inferior quality of tone will often please the uncultivated ear best at first; though time and use will reveal the superiority of really good tone. Hence in selecting an organ it is safer to choose one from a maker whose reputation is thoroughly established, and whose productions are acknowledged to have superlative excellence, especially in this chief thing.—*Boston Journal.*

GOVERNMENT will spend $5,456,389 this year for the support of Indians

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