

COPPER COINAGE
OF THE
BRITISH COLONIES IN AMERICA.

COMMUNICATED TO

THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON

BY THE REV. H. CHRISTMAS, F.R.S.

LONDON:
1862.

COPPER COINAGE OF THE BRITISH COLONIES; IN AMERICA.

BY THE REV. H. CHRISTMAS, F.R.S.

PASSING from the coinage of those states, once colonies of Great Britain, but now independent republics, we come to the currency of those which still retain their allegiance to the mother country; and we commence with the North American colonies in the order in which they were founded, but must first notice the

COLONIAL COINAGE OF GEORGE IV.

In the years 1822—1823, an attempt seems to have been made to institute one universal coinage for the British colonies, in the terms of dollars and cents; copper pieces were struck of this class of one and two cents, or the 50th and 100th part of the dollar respectively.

These are seldom found except as proofs, and are very rare.

PENNY.

1. *Obv.*—GEOR : IV : D : G : BRI : REX :

Bust of the king to left, laureate and draped.

Rev.—COLONIAL :

In a wreath of oak leaves.

$\frac{1}{30}$

DOLLAR.

In exergue, 1823. Weight, 268 grains.

HALFPENNY.

2. *Obv.*—GEOR : IV : D : G : BRI : REX :
King's bust, as the last.

Rev.—COLONIAL :

Wreath of oak leaves, within ;

$\frac{1}{100}$
DOLLAR.

In the exergue, 1823. Weight, 145 grains.

This coinage has plain edges, and is beautifully executed, the head is the same as that on the Irish halfpenny and penny of the same year.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The currency, and particularly the copper currency, of British North America consists chiefly of tokens. Many of these are issued by banks, some by private persons—some were struck in England and sent over to be issued in America, and some are the work of native artists.

The first colony planted by the British power in North America, among those which now acknowledge allegiance to the British crown, is Newfoundland, which dates so far back as the year 1500. Of this colony we have two tokens.

1. *Obv.*—PER MARE PER TERRAS.

The legend on a scroll under the Rutherford arms—within a tressure of roses and thistles argent, an orb gules ; in chief, three martlets, sable ; supporters, two horses ; crest, a mermaid.

Rev.—R. & J. S. RUTHERFORD * NEWFOUNDLAND *

A fleece suspended ; beneath it, ST. JOHN'S.

2. *Obv.*—PER MARE PER TERRAS.

On a scroll under the Rutherford arms, as on the last ; below, the date 1846.

Rev.—RUTHERFORD BROS. * NEWFOUNDLAND *

A fleece suspended ; below it, HARBOUR GRACE.

Next in order comes Cape Breton, founded A.D. 1584, of which colony we have no coins.

Next rank Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, both dating from 1622.

Of coins issued by the authority of government for Nova Scotia, there are none save of the present reign; they are the work of Mr. Wyon, and are worthy of his reputation. We have cents and half cents of the date 1861.

CENT.

1. *Obv.*—VICTORIA D. G. BRITT. REG. F. D.

Bust of the queen to left, laureate and draped, as on the English halfpenny.

- Rev.*—ONE CENT. NOVA SCOTIA.

Within a wreath, 1861; beneath it, a crown.

HALF CENT.

2. *Obv.*—VICTORIA D. G. BRITT. REG. F. D.

Bust of the queen, as before.

- Rev.*—HALF CENT. NOVA SCOTIA.

Within a wreath, 1861; beneath it, a crown.

The earliest tokens of Nova Scotia are of the reign of George III., and present his portrait; they are struck at Halifax, and are all halfpennies.

3. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Bust of Geo. III. to right, draped and laureate; beneath, 1815.

- Rev.*—PAYABLE BY JOHN ALEXR. BARRY.

A ship in full sail; beneath, HALIFAX.

Another specimen has a larger bust.

4. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

King's bust as before, within a circle; beneath, 1814.

- Rev.*—PAYABLE BY HOSTERMAN & ETTER.

A public building; beneath, HALIFAX.

5. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.
The king's bust, as No. 2, but larger and without the circle; beneath, 1815.
Rev.—Same as No. 2.
6. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.
The king's bust, as No. 1, but larger and coarser; below, 1814.
Rev.—PAYABLE BY CARRITT & ALPORT.
A ship in full sail; below, HALIFAX. Edge milled.

Another specimen has the edge plain and smaller letters.

7. *Obv.*—BROKE—HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
Bust to left in uniform.
Rev.—BRITANNIA.
Figure of Britannia as on the English coins of 1806; in the distance two ships. In exergue, 1814. Edge milled.

Another specimen has a larger bust.

8. *Obv.*—STARR AND SHANNON, HALIFAX.
An Indian to left with bow and arrow, a dog by his side; beneath, 1815.
Rev.—HALFPENNY TOKEN—NOVA SCOTIA.
A ship in full sail. Edge engrailed.
9. *Obv.*—COMMERCIAL CHANGE.
Indian, as No. 8.
Rev.—As No. 8. Edge plain.
10. *Obv.*—PAYABLE AT W. A. & S. BLACK'S, HALIFAX, N.S.
A cask marked NAILS & SPIKES, between a scythe blade and a sickle; above it two spades crossed.
Rev.—WHOLESALE & RETAIL HARDWARE STORE.
Front view of a house; beneath, 1816.
11. *Obv.*—HALIFAX—NOVA SCOTIA.
Same as No. 8.
Rev.—Same as No. 8.

12. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Within a circle a cask marked SPIKES, NAILS,
&c.; date below, 1815.

Rev.—IMPORTER OF IRONMONGERY, HARDWARES, &c.

Within a circle, in six lines, PAYABLE | BY |
MILES W. | WHITE | HALIFAX | N.S.

HALIFAX HALFPENNY.

13. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Portrait of George III. to right, laureate
and draped; underneath, 1815.

Rev.—A three-masted ship sailing to the right; in the
distance to the left, another ship. In the exergue,
HALIFAX. Weight, 101 grains.

The portrait on this token is copied from the English
halfpenny of 1806. It is milled on the edge in straight
lines.

GEORGE IV.

There is a series of penny and halfpenny tokens of
Nova Scotia, ranging from 1822 to 1832, bearing the
portrait of George IV.

PENNY.

14. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Bust of George IV. to the left, laureate and
draped.

Rev.—ONE PENNY TOKEN.

A two-leaved thistle. In the exergue, 1824.
Weight, 260 grains.

This coin is coarsely executed, but the workmanship is
not bad; it is milled round the edge. It occurs of the
following dates, 1824 and 1832.

The portrait of George IV. is continued on the coins
struck during the reign of his brother, William IV.

HALFPENNY.

15. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.
Bust of George IV., as on the penny.

Rev.—HALFPENNY TOKEN.
A two-leaved thistle. In the exergue, 1823.
Weight, $115\frac{1}{2}$ to 144 grains.

This coin is milled on the edge, and occurs of the dates 1823 and 1832.

VICTORIA.

Of the same type as the foregoing we have pennies and halfpennies of the present reign.

PENNY.

16. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.
Head of Queen Victoria to the right, filleted;
the neck bare.

Rev.—ONE PENNY TOKEN.
A two-leaved thistle. In the exergue, 1840.
Weight, $267\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

HALFPENNY.

17. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.
Head of Queen Victoria to the right, filleted;
the neck bare.

Rev.—HALFPENNY TOKEN.
A two-leaved thistle. In the exergue, 1840.
Weight, 142 grains.

The coins which bear the head of Victoria are very inferior in point of workmanship to those which present the portrait of George IV. Indeed, it would be difficult to find anything in modern art more despicable.

The penny occurs of the dates 1840, 1843, 1856; and the halfpenny of the dates 1840, 1843, 1856. Both are milled on the edge, and no proofs in any metal are known, either of these or the similar coins bearing the head of George IV.

Another type of the Nova Scotia token is of far better workmanship.¹

PENNY.

18. *Obv.*—VICTORIA : D : G : BRITANNIAR : REG : F : D. 1856.

Head of the queen to left, wearing an open coronet, of which only the front is seen; the neck bare.

Rev.—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA PENNY TOKEN.

An abundant sprig of the May-flower, with leaves and blossoms; edge plain. Weight, 255 grains.

HALFPENNY.

19. *Obv.*—VICTORIA : D : G : BRITANNIAR : REG : F : D : 1856.

Head of the queen, as on the penny.

Rev.—PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA. HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Type as the penny. Weight, 116 grains.

NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

HALFPENNY.

20. *Obv.*—NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

A ship in full sail. In exergue, SUCCESS.

Rev.—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

A female seated on a bale of goods; in her right hand scales, in her left a cornucopia; in the distance a ship. Edge milled.

21. *Obv.*—PAYABLE AT THE STORE OF J. BROWN.

A ship in full sail.

Rev.—NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT.

A four-leaved thistle.

¹ There are a penny and a halfpenny which are often supposed to belong to the colony of Nova Scotia, on account of the similarity of workmanship which they display to the coins of George IV. already described. The halfpenny bears the legend:—

Obv.—PURE | COPPER | PREFERABLE | TO | PAPER.
In five lines.

Rev.—In a wreath of oak and shamrock, an Irishman with a shillelagh in his right hand, and a sprig of

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Of coins issued by the authority of government, for New Brunswick, there are none save the cent recently issued; it is like that of Nova Scotia, from the hand of Mr. Wyon.

CENT.

1. *Obv.*—VICTORIA D. G. BRITT. REG. F.D.

Bust of the queen to the left, draped and laureate, as on the English halfpenny.

Rev.—ONE CENT. NEW BRUNSWICK.

Within a wreath the date, 1861; beneath it, a crown.

Of tokens there are two distinct coinages, both executed in England. The first presents the head of the queen, with an open crown; the second filleted.

shamrock in his left. An embodiment of the line, "With a sprig of shillelagh and shamrock so green." Edge milled.

This seems only connected with the penny by the legend of the obverse; it is a light coin, weighing only $113\frac{1}{2}$ grains. The penny now to be described weighs $173\frac{1}{2}$ grains, and has the edge plain.

PENNY.

Obv.—PURE COPPER PREFERABLE TO PAPER.

A rough, coarse portrait of George IV. to the left, draped and laureate.

Rev.—TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

A figure representing commerce to the left, seated on a bale of merchandise, holding in her right hand an olive branch, and in her left a caduceus. In the distance, to the right, a ship. In the exergue, 1838.

These coins are, however, only provincial tokens of the mother country.

First Coinage.

PENNY.

2. *Obv.*—VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA.

Bust of the queen to the left, wearing an open crown; beneath the head, 1843.

- Rev.*—NEW BRUNSWICK. ONE PENNY TOKEN.

A frigate to the left, with her standing rigging, but without sails. Weight, 268 grains.

Bronze proofs exist of this coin, which is of the highest order of workmanship.

HALFPENNY.

3. *Obv.*—VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA.

Bust, as on the penny.

- Rev.*—NEW BRUNSWICK. HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Ship, as on the penny. Weight, 135 grains.

Bronze proofs exist, but are very rare.

Second Coinage.

PENNY.

4. *Obv.*—VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA.

Bust of the queen to left, filleted; beneath, 1854.

- Rev.*—NEW BRUNSWICK. ONE PENNY CURRENCY.

Cinquefoils divide the parts of the legend. The frigate as before.

HALFPENNY.

5. *Obv.*—VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA.

Bust of the queen, as on No. 3; beneath, 1854.

- Rev.*—NEW BRUNSWICK. HALFPENNY CURRENCY.

Cinquefoils divide the legend. The frigate as before.

ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRUNSWICK.

HALFPENNY.

6. *Obv.*—FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.

A ship in full sail.

Rev.—ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Star of eight points; in the field, in three lines, HALF | PENNY | TOKEN. Edge milled.

MAGDALEN ISLAND.

PENNY.

1. *Obv.*—MAGDALEN ISLAND TOKEN.

Within a circle, a seal; below, + 1815 +.

Rev.—SUCCESS TO THE FISHERY. ONE PENNY.

Within a circle, a cod-fish, split for salting. Edge engrailed.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

HALFPENNY.

1. *Obv.*—SPEED THE PLOUGH.

A plough.

Rev.—SUCCESS TO THE FISHERIES.

A cod-fish split for salting. Struck about 1840.

2. *Obv.*—PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

In the field, 1855.

Rev.—SELF | GOVERNMENT | AND | FREE | TRADE.

In five lines.

Another has date 1857, but Edward, for Edward's.

CANADA.

Of this important portion of the British empire, we have a considerable number of coins. These may be divided into three classes:—

- I. Those struck for circulation in both provinces.
- II. Those for Upper Canada.
- III. Those for Lower Canada.

Of the first class the chief coins will be the beautiful pieces prepared by Mr. Wyon, and which consist of cents only.

CENT.

1. *Obv.*—VICTORIA DEI GRATIA REGINA. CANADA.
Within a beaded circle, the queen's head to left, laureate.
- Rev.*—Within a wreath of leaves, in a beaded circle, ONE | CENT | 1858. In three lines.

This coin occurs also of 1859.

The head on this coin, and, indeed, the whole obverse, was designed for an English coinage; but the inner beaded circle not being approved, the design was rejected. It may be observed, that this 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.

HALFPENNY.

2. *Obv.*—FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.
A ship in full sail.
- Rev.*—CANADA | HALF | PENNY | TOKEN.
In four lines.
3. *Obv.*—TOKEN.
Bust of George IV. to right, laureate and draped; under it, 1820.
- Rev.*—NORTH WEST COMPANY.
A beaver. Edge engrailed.

4. *Obv.*—CANADA | 1830.
In two lines.

Rev.—HALF | PENNY.
In two lines.

Another has the date 1841.

CENT.

5. *Obv.*—ONE | 1855 | CENT.
In three lines.

Rev.—FISHERIES. AGRICULTURE.
In the field, AND.

UPPER CANADA.

PENNY.

6. *Obv.*—BANK OF UPPER CANADA.

St. George on horseback, to the right, slaying the dragon. In the exergue, between two roses, 1850. On the ground, under the dragon, R. K. & Co.

Rev.—BANK TOKEN . ONE PENNY.

Arranged so as to be read without turning. Two cornucopiæ; on the outer side of each a small rose; between them, an axe, an arrow, an anchor, and a sword, bound together by a wreath and by a cable; the whole surmounted by the imperial crown, over which is a small rose. To the right of the crown, the Union Jack partially displayed.

Weight, 245 grains.

HALFPENNY.

7. *Obv.*—BANK OF UPPER CANADA.

As the penny.

Rev.—BANK TOKEN . HALFPENNY.

As the penny.

Weight, 118 grains.

These coins are extremely well executed, and the device on the obverse is copied from Pistrucci's crown piece. Both occur of the dates, 1850, 1852, 1857.

Of private tokens there are a considerable number, some dating back so far as 1794.

HALFPENNY.

8. *Obv.*—ONE HALFPENNY.

Within a circle, COPPER | COMPANY | OF UPPER | CANADA. In four lines.

Rev.—FERTILITATEM DIVITIASQUE CIRCUMFEREMU.

Legend on a raised border. A river god, with trident in his left hand, leans his right arm on an urn, from which water flows; on the exergual line, PONTION. In exergue, 1794.

9. *Obv.*—SUCCESS TO THE COMMERCE OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA.

A ship under sail.

Rev.—SIR ISAAC | BROCK, BART. | THE HERO OF | UPPER CANADA | WHO FELL AT THE | GLORIOUS BATTLE OF | QUEENSTOWN HEIGHTS | ON THE 13TH OCTR. | 1812.

In nine lines. Edge milled.

10. *Obv.*—SIR ISAAC BROCK, THE HERO OF UPR. CANADA.

Two angels holding a wreath over an urn placed on a pedestal inscribed, Fell Oct. 13, 1812.

Rev.—SUCCESS TO COMMERCE, AND PEACE TO THE WORLD.

In the field, 1816; above and below the date, a star. Edge milled.

11. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN, UPPER CANADA.

A sloop under sail.

Rev.—COMMERCIAL CHANGE.

An Indian to left, with bow and arrow, a dog by his side. In exergue, 1815. Edge milled.

12. *Obv.*—Same as No. 11.*Rev.*—COMMERCIAL CHANGE.

An anvil; above it, two spades crossed; below, 1820. Edge milled.

13. *Obv.*—Same as No. 11.*Rev.*—COMMERCIAL CHANGE.

A cask inscribed UPPER CANADA; below, 1821. Edge milled.

14. *Obv.*—Same as No. 11.

Rev.—TO FACILITATE TRADE.

A plough; beneath, 1823. Edge milled.

This coin occurs also with the date, 1833.

15. *Obv.*—Same as No. 11.

Rev.—COMMERCIAL CHANGE.

Between a scythe-blade and a vice, an anvil, with hammer and tongs; above, two spades crossed; below, 1833.

16. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA.

Bust of George IV. to the left, laureate and draped.

Rev.—HALFPENNY TOKEN.

Britannia, copied from the English coinage of 1806. In exergue, 1832. Edge engrailed.

17. *Obv.*—LESLIE & SONS—YORK, KINGSTON, & DUNDAS.

Justice, with sword and scales.

Rev.—PROSPERITY TO CANADA. LA PRUDENCE ET LA CANDEUR.

A plough; above it, TOKEN; below it, HALF-PENNY.

TWOPENCE.

18. *Obv.*—LESLIE & SONS, TORONTO & DUNDAS. 1822.

Justice, standing, as in No. 17.

Rev.—PROSPERITY TO CANADA. LA PRUDENCE ET LA CANDEUR.

A plough; above it, TOKEN; below it, 2D. CURRENCY.

LOWER CANADA.

PENNY, OR PIECE OF TWO SOUS.

19. *Obv.*—PROVINCE DU BAS CANADA, | DEUX SOUS.

A huntsman in frock and trowsers, his left hand extended, in his right a whip; on his head a conical cap.

Rev.—BANK TOKEN.

Within a garter, on which is inscribed *CONCORDIA SALUS*, and which is ornamented with scroll work of foliage, the arms of the province; argent, a cross saltire gules; in the four compartments respectively, a rose, a thistle, a shamrock, and a beaver. On a scroll, proceeding on both sides from the garter, near the buckle, *ERRY BANK*, in sunk letters. In the exergue, 1837; and below the date, *ONE PENNY*. Weight, 185 grains.

This coinage is beautifully executed; the edges are plain, and proofs are met with, though rarely, in bronze.

20. *Obv.*—PROVINCE OF CANADA.

A view of the Bank of Montreal; under it, *BANK OF MONTREAL*.

Rev.—BANK TOKEN.

Same as the last, only that it bears on the scroll *BANK OF MONTREAL*, and the date in the exergue is 1842.

ONE SOU.

21. *Obv.*—PROVINCE DU BAS CANADA. UN SOU.

Huntsman, as on penny No. 19.

Rev.—BANK TOKEN.

Arms of the province, as penny No. 19, but date 1837. Weight, 146 grains.

22. *Obv.*—AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

A bouquet, consisting of a two-headed thistle, a rose on a stem, a sprig of shamrock, and two ears of corn; below it, \dagger *BAS CANADA* \dagger .

Rev.—Within two laurel branches, *UN | SOU*, in two lines; above, *TOKEN*; below, *MONTREAL*.

There are several varieties of this coin, differing in the arrangement of the bouquet and in the dates; rosettes or crosses before and after the words *BAS CANADA*.

23. *Obv.*—Same as No. 22. *BAS CANADA*, without dots or crosses.*Rev.*—BANQUE DU PEUPLE, MONTREAL.

UN | SOU, in two lines, between laurel branches.

24. *Obv.*—Same as No. 23, but * BAS — CANADA. *
Rev.—Same as No. 23, but UN | SOU within a wreath of fine large leaves.
25. *Obv.*—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE, LOWER CANADA.
 Bouquet as before, but with two roses.
Rev.—BANK OF MONTREAL TOKEN.
 UN | SOU, in two lines, within a laurel and palm wreath.
26. *Obv.*—Same as No. 25.
Rev.—BANK TOKEN, MONTREAL.
 UN | SOU, as No. 25.

TWO SOUS.—PENNY.

27. *Obv.*—Same as No. 19.
Rev.—Same as No. 19, only on the scroll, BANK OF MONTREAL.
28. *Obv.*—Same as No. 19.
Rev.—Same as No. 19, only on the scroll, BANQUE DU PEUPLE.
29. *Obv.*—Same as No. 19.
Rev.—Same as No. 19, only on the scroll, QUEBEC BANK.

SOU.

30. *Obv.*—Same as No. 21.
Rev.—Same as No. 21, only on the scroll, BANK OF MONTREAL.
31. *Obv.*—Same as No. 21.
Rev.—Same as No. 21, only on the scroll, BANQUE DU PEUPLE.
32. *Obv.*—Same as No. 21.
Rev.—Same as No. 21, only on the scroll, QUEBEC BANK.
33. *Obv.*—Same as No. 21.
Rev.—Same as No. 21, only on the scroll, CITY — BANK.

PENNY.

34. *Obv.*—BANK OF MONTREAL.
 A side view of the bank. In exergue, 1839.
Rev.—Same as the penny No. 20, but without the date.

HALFPENNY.

35. *Obv.*—Same as the penny No. 20, only below the date,
HALFPENNY.
Rev.—Same as No. 20.
36. *Obv.* and *Rev.*—Same, date 1844.

PENNY.

37. *Obv.*—Same as No. 19, but without the word *BAS*.
Rev.—QUEBEC BANK TOKEN.

A female sitting to right, with cornucopiæ in her right hand, the arm resting on a shield with the arms of the city of Quebec; gules—a lion passant gardant, holding a key in his right paw. To the right, a beaver; to the left, a beehive; in the distance, a fortress upon a rock, and a ship at sea. In the exergue, 1852, and below the date, ONE PENNY.

SOU, OR HALFPENNY.

38. *Obv.*—As No. 37, only *UN SOU*.
Rev.—As No. 37, only *HALFPENNY*.
39. *Obv.*—No legend. Between a scythe blade and a vice, an anvil with hammer and tongs; above it, two spades crossed.
Rev.—T. S. BROWN & CO. | IMPORTERS | OF | HARDWARES |
MONTREAL.
In five lines.

HALFPENNY.

40. *Obv.*—HALFPENNY TOKEN. 1816.
Within a circle, a bust of the Duke of Wellington to left, laureate, and in uniform.
Rev.—MONTREAL.
Within a circle, a ship under sail.
41. *Obv.*—No legend. A teapot between a vice and a 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.
Edge milled.

42. *Obv.*—No legend. A large sloop under sail.
Rev.—Within a circle of cordage, W. OWEN, MONTREAL
 ROPERY. Edge milled.

WEST INDIES.

ANTIGUA FARTHING.

1. *Obv.*—A palm tree dividing the date 1836 and the letters
 H.C. In the exergue, ANTIGUA.
Rev.—A wreath of oak and laurel; within, ONE | FARTH-
 ING | s.t.g. In three lines.

The abbreviation for *sterling*, s.t.g., is in small letters,
 not capitals.

BAHAMA ISLANDS.

Of these islands we have only one coin. Ruding states that in the year 1806, copper coins to the value of £500 were ordered to be struck for the Bahamas. They were struck in Mr. Boulton's mint in Soho, and were intended to supply the negroes with small money; but the negroes refused to take them, and the project came to nothing.

These coins consist of halfpennies only, and are now very rare, especially proofs. The issue is remarkable as presenting a historical reverse. They appear to have been absorbed into the English currency of the time.

The Bahama islands had been a noted resort for pirates—and just previously to the year 1806, they had been rooted out by a British naval force, and commerce restored in those seas. The Bahama coin has the same obverse as the English halfpenny of that year.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D.G. REX.

The king's head to the right, laureate; the shoulders draped; under the head, 1806.

Rev.—BAHAMA.

A three-masted ship in full sail to the right; in the distance, two other ships and a rocky island. In the exergue, *Piratis expulsis restituta commercia*, in three lines.

ISLAND OF BARBADOES.

Of this interesting island we have two distinct coinages one of 1788, and one of 1792. Of the first coinage we have pennies only.

1. *Obv.*—A negro's head crowned and plumed; beneath it,
I SERVE.

Rev.—BARBADOES PENNY, 1788.

A pine-apple. Weight, 240 to 270 grains.

Of this kind there are three varieties, differing only in the position of the plumes on the crown, which is an open one.

The next coinage is of 1792, and consists of pennies and halfpennies.

PENNY.

2. *Obv.*—I SERVE.

Negro's head as before.

Rev.—BARBADOES PENNY.

Portrait of George III. in a car drawn over the waves by two sea-horses; the king is crowned and royally robed, and in his right hand he holds a trident. In the exergue, 1792. Weight, 240 to 260 grains.

HALFPENNY.

3. *Obv.*—I SERVE.

Negro's head as before.

Rev.—BARBADOES HALFPENNY.

George III. in a car as the last. In the exergue, 1792. Weight, 140 to 162 grains.

There are two varieties of this coin differing in the position of the plumes.

Bronze proofs exist, but they are rare. It will be observed that there is a great variety in the weights of different coins; the heavier ones here given are fine proofs,

the lighter ones, coins struck for circulation. Of the coinage of 1792, only the value of £200 was issued.

HALFPENNY (*Token*).

4. *Obv.*—MOSES TOLANTO.

A bale of goods marked M. T.; underneath,
BARBADOES.

Rev.—FREEDOM WITHOUT SLAVERY.

A cask.

THE BERMUDA ISLANDS.

These islands boast of the earliest Anglo-American coinage with which we are acquainted. Discovered in 1527 by Juan Bermudas, or Bermudez—no attempt was made to colonise them till 1612, and then chiefly because Sir George Somers had been cast ashore on them in 1609. From this circumstance, they received the name of the Somer's Islands, a title which has sometimes been imagined to mean summer islands.¹ The Virginia Company sent out John More to colonise them in the year 1612, and he was shortly succeeded in command by Captain Daniel Tucker.

Captain John Smith, the author of the "History of Virginia," states that, "besides meat and drink and clothes, they had for a time a certain kind of brass money with a hog on one side, in memory of the abundance of hogs which were found on their first landing." Of this "*brass money*," one specimen only is now known to exist; it was in the collection of the late Rev. Joseph Martin, of Ketley, and, at the sale of his coins, was purchased for an American collector for the large sum of £29. It may be described as follows:—

¹ [In some French maps they are found with the title of "Iles de l'été."—*Ed.*]

1. *Obv.*—SOMER ISLANDS.

A wild boar, with the Roman numerals XII. over it. MM. a mullet of five points.

Rev.—A ship under sail firing a gun.

In the year 1793, a beautiful pattern was engraved by Droz, for a halfpenny intended to circulate in these islands.

2. *Obv.*—GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX.

The king's bust, laureate, to the right; the neck bare.

Rev.—BERMUDA.

A three-masted ship in full sail; behind the ship a mountainous shore. In the exergue, 1793. Edge plain. Weight, 193½ grains.

JAMAICA.

This beautiful and important island presents us with only two tokens.

HALFPENNY.

1. *Obv.*—M. HOWARD.

A carriage with two horses. In exergue, FERRY GRASS.

Rev.—KINGSTON.

A groom holding a horse by the bridle. In exergue, JAMAICA. Edge milled.

2. *Obv.*—BRITISH COLONIES.

A bust, to left, in modern dress.

Rev.—TO FACILITATE TRADE.

A female figure, to left, sitting on a bale of goods, and holding a laurel-branch in her right hand. In exergue, 1825.

COLONIES OF DEMERARA AND ESSEQUIBO.

These colonies in Guiana—now usually called British Guiana—were originally planted by the Dutch; they were surrendered to the British in 1796, but restored to the

Dutch 1802. In 1803 they were permanently annexed to the British colonial empire.

We have coinages for this colony in the years 1809, 1813, 1816, 1832, but the only copper coins occur in the year 1813. The issue consists of stivers and half-stivers, most of the inhabitants at the time being of Dutch origin, and accustomed to reckon by guilders and stivers.

STIVER.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX.

The king's head to the right, laureate; the bust draped. On the shoulder, W. for Wyon.

Rev.—COLONIES OF ESSEQUEBO & DEMERARY TOKEN, 1813.

Between two oak branches, ONE STIVER, surmounted by a crown. Weight, 290 grains.

This is a beautifully executed coin, has a milled edge, and is found in plain and gilt bronze; the latter is rare.

HALF-STIVER.

Obv.—GEORGIUS III. D. G. REX.

King's bust, as on the stiver, but under the shoulder T. W., identifying the coinage as the work of Thomas Wyon.

Rev.—COLONIES OF ESSEQUEBO & DEMERARY TOKEN, 1813.

Between two oak branches, HALF-STIVER, surmounted by a crown. Weight, 146 grains.

The weight of these coins is very accurate; there is rarely more than a grain difference between those of the same denomination.

The spelling of the names is different from that which prevails at the present time; the colonies are now called Demerara and Essequibo. On the coins of 1816 and 1832, the latter-named colony is called according to the present fashion—and Demerara, still called Demerary, is placed first in order—but of these dates there are only silver coins.

3, DANE'S INN, STRAND, AUGUST, 1862.