

CASTINE;

AND

THE OLD COINS FOUND THERE.

BY

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

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The Fredericksburg (Va.) Ledger contains the will of the mother of Washington, as written by herself, and recorded in the Clerk's office of Spottsylvania County. We publish below this rare and curious document. The original is in possession of Mr. J. J. Chew, Esq., of Fredericksburg.

In the name of God. Amen. I Mary Washington, of Fredericksburg, in the County of Spottsylvania, being in good health, but calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, and willing to dispose of what remains of my worldly estate, do make and publish this my last will, recommending my soul into the hands of my Creator, hoping for a remission of all my sins, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, I dispose of all my worldly estate as follows:

*Imprimis*—I give to my son General George Washington, all my lands on Accokeek Run, in the County of Stafford, and also my negro boy George, to him and his heirs forever; also my best bed, bostead and Virginia cloth curtains (the same that stands in my best room), my quilted blue and white quilt, and my best dressing glass.

*Item*—I give and devise to my son Charles Washington, my negro man Tom, to him and his assigns forever.

*Item*—I give and devise to my daughter Betty Lewis, my phaeton and bay horse.

*Item*—I give and devise to my daughter-in-law, Hannah Washington, my purple cloth cloak lined with shag.

*Item*—I give and devise to my grandson, Corbin Washington, my negro wench, Old Bet, my riding chair, and two black horses, to him and his assigns forever.

*Item*—I give and devise to my grandson, Fielding Lewis, my negro man Frederick, to him and his assigns forever; also, eight silver table-spoons, half my crockery ware, and the blue and white tea-china, walnut book-case, oval table, one bed, one bed-spread, one pair sheets, one pair blankets, and white cotton counterpane, two table-cloths, six red leather chairs, half of my pewter, one half of my iron kitchen furniture.

*Item*—I give and devise to my grandson, Lawrence Lewis, my negro wench Lydia, to him and his assigns forever.

*Item*—I give and devise to my granddaughter, Bettie Carter, my negro woman, little Bet, and her future increase, to her and her assigns forever; also, my largest looking-glass, my walnut writing desk with drawers, a square dining-table, one bed, bedstead, bolster, one pillow, one blanket and pair sheets, white Virginia cloth counterpane and purple curtains, my red and white tea-china, tea spoons, and the other half of pewter, crockery ware, and the remainder of my kitchen furniture.

*Item*—I give to my grandson, George Washington, my next best dressing glass, one bedstead, bed, bolster, one pillow, one pair sheets, one blanket and counterpane.

*Item*—I devise all my wearing apparel to be equally divided between my grand-daughters, Betty Carter, Fanny Bail and Lully Washington; but should my daughter Betty Lewis fancy any one, two or three articles thereof, she is to have them before a division thereof.

*Lastly*—I nominate and appoint my said son, General George Washington, executor of this my will, and as I owe few or no debts, I direct my executor to give no security, nor to appraise my estate; but desire the same may be allotted to my devisees with as little trouble and delay as may be, desiring their acceptance thereof as all the token I now have to give them of my love for them.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 20th day of May, 1788.

[Seal.]

MARY WASHINGTON.

Signed, sealed and published in our presence and signed by us in the presence of the said Mary Washington, at her desire.

Witnesses. { JAMES MERCER,  
JOSEPH WALKER,  
JOHN FERNEYHOUGH.

Boston Clergyman Thirty Years.

The Boston Pulpit is not an improving one. Compared with the same pulpit thirty years ago, it has greatly deteriorated. The ministers of Boston long anterior to that date had a wide and deserved fame for scholarship, for eloquence, for general culture, for social qualities, for humor, and for a deep and fervid faith. They were quoted; they were looked up to; many of them gained national reputations, and some of them names that were known and revered wherever the Christian religion was taught, and which have been embalmed in the literature of the language. We have ornaments of the pulpit in Boston to-day, but they are not the giants of other days. We have more pulpits, but there are few occupying them whose names have been heard beyond their own parishes; certainly few whose names are known beyond their own denominations. Of the one hundred and fifty ministers in Boston to-day, seven-tenths of them are as unknown to the general public as though they were day laborers upon the wharves.

We are far from asserting that wordly fame, the voice of public approval, is a prize to be sought after by the minister of religion. Notoriety is not an evidence of merit, or the want of it an evidence of dullness and inefficiency. Yet a man of marked ability, of strong and decided characteristics and of great pulpit attainments cannot long remain hidden from the world in the bosom of his own congregation. He will be sure to be dragged from his retirement, be spoken of and be sought after. Thus Dr. Channing could no more have confined his influence within the sphere of the Federal Street Church, than the sexton could have exerted an influence co-extensive with that of the preacher.

We have only a few notabilities in the pulpit of 1865. Perhaps the changed condition of the world of to-day from that which existed a generation and more ago, has had more to do in restricting the fame of the pulpit and the personal influence of clergymen than is generally supposed. Men now passed middle life can remember when the minister was the great man of the community around him; when his word was law; when his opinions were held in veneration and he could sway a whole village to a particular course of action by a few words spoken from his pulpit. It was in an emphatic sense "like priest, like people." The railroad, the lightning telegraph and the lightning press have brought the ends of the earth together. Time and space and natural barriers have been surmounted, and millions of people, thousands of miles apart, read, on the same morning, the same account of the great events that have happened; and the thoughts of him who has the ear of the country, though uttered in a retired village, are flashed over a continent the next day and spread in every direction by a lightning press to a multitude of readers, whom no man can number. How is it possible, under such circumstances, when the most retired hamlets are but suburbs of a great metropolis, for the pulpit to be as powerful as it used to be? New teachers have arisen, and new guides sway public opinion through new and swifter methods of communicating ideas.

There is a remnant left of those who occupied Boston pulpits twenty years ago, before railroads had displaced stage-coaches; when the electric telegraph was unknown, and the lightning press existed only in the brain of its inventor. We have a desire to say a few words of these men who have been in pulpit harness so long, and who are still spared to their congregations. Their number is but small. It comprises Dr. Gannett, the colleague pastor of Dr. Channing, who was settled in 1824; Father Taylor, the devoted Bethel preacher, who was settled in 1828; Dr. Worcester, of the Church of the New Jerusalem, who was settled in 1828; Chandler Robbins, of the Second Church, and Dr. Adams, of the Essex street Church, settled in 1833; Dr. S. K. Lothrop, of the Brattle street Church, settled in 1834, and Dr. George W. Blagden of the Old South, settled in 1836. We shall include in this list Rev. Dr. Neale of the First Baptist Church, who was settled in 1837, and Rev. Dr. Bartol, of the Lynde street Church, who was also settled in 1837. We design to give brief sketches of these fathers of the church on succeeding Saturdays.

copy from  
of Boston

in an aggregate of one thousand one hundred and one, fifteen guns, or an average of eleven guns to each vessel.—N. Y. Com. Adv.

### Tragedy in Wisconsin.

A shocking tragedy occurred in the town of Caledonia, Racine county, on the night of the 1st instant. A boy named John Stitesky, the only son of a respectable Bohemian, residing near the Chicago and Milwaukee Railroad track, in the northern part of Caledonia, Racine county, committed one of the most atrocious and cold-blooded acts of combined parricide and homicide that has ever been recorded in annals of crime. The circumstances are as follows:

The father, who was a farmer in excellent circumstances, had been laboring in the woods during the day, and had come in at nightfall for his supper. The meal was prepared, and the mother called John, who is an only son, about nineteen years old, to come in to tea. The aged couple sat down to their meal, thinking the boy would presently join them, when suddenly a shot was fired through the window-pane of the room, and the father was struck by a ball in the left arm, completely shattering it at the elbow. The mother started up, and at the same instant another report resounded, and she was struck in the abdomen by a bullet, which passed completely through her body.

In another moment another discharge was heard in the yard, and the father, who, with parental instincts, divined the nature and effect of this third shot, summoned strength to get out of doors, where he found his son weltering in his blood, and already gasping his last. He had murdered both of his aged parents with the two barrels of one gun, and had shot himself through the body with another weapon, ending his life almost instantly.

We say murdered, for it is not probable that either will recover, though both were living when our informant left. The mother has doubtless breathed her last ere now, and it is considered doubtful whether the father, who is over sixty years of age, can survive his injuries and the shock of his grief.—*Milwaukee Sentinel.*

### The Negroes at Work.

[From the Mobile Register and Advertiser.]

It will be found, we think, that the mass of the blacks are at work, in some shape or another, making a living out of the soil, and more or less contributing to the wealth of society, which the sweat of the brow draws from the earth. Of course, they are not working with the regularity, persistency and energy which prevailed under the labor system lately uprooted, but they are at work, and so far give evidence that they are teachable in the first great lesson of their sudden emancipation—to wit: that to live they must work, and that when the Federal sword struck off their bonds, it did not emancipate them from the decree of Heaven, that by the sweat of man's brow shall he eat and live. The negro has but to have this fact durably impressed upon his understanding, and our new labor system is inaugurated. Once started, there is no fear that it will not march forward.

The well disposed and the industrious will thrive, the idle, the mean, the vicious, will find their speedy way to the grave through the doors of poor houses, hospitals and prisons. Time will build up all this upon the ruins of slavery. We possess a land that groans with latent wealth, and pleads for labor. It will get it. It will get it sooner than the most sanguine have expected. In the very next crop we are prepared to see men rub their eyes and say how blind and shortsighted we have been. Suppose a fourth or even a fifth of a cotton crop is produced, its yield in money is just as great as that of a full crop five years ago. It is the happy characteristic of cotton that its value rises and falls with its supply, and the world pays as much for 500,000 bales as it does for 2,000,000, according to the yield.

Let us be cheerful, hope for the best, and work for the best.

### Counterfeit Legal Tender Notes.

The counterfeiters who have long been engaged in imitating the various issues of government paper, generally with but poor success, have made an excellent copy of the fifty-dollar legal-tender notes and have given it considerable circulation in this city and probably in many parts of the country. The existence of a dangerous counterfeit of this denomination of the currency has been for some time known; but the false notes have passed freely, and none were detected until last week or the beginning of this week. They have been through the hands of bank officers and brokers of great experience; excellent judges of money, who are not well acquainted with the counterfeit, are unable to form a decided opinion as to the character of it; and officers of the Treasury Department have found it extremely difficult to detect the spurious paper. When the counterfeit was first submitted to the men who had been employed to engrave the original note, they pronounced it genuine; but a close observation and comparison of the two notes, showed some slight difference.

The engravers are able to point out but two discrepancies between the notes that will be apparent to the public. One of them is in that part of the engraving of the head of Hamilton, upon the face of

in the center of the spine. There is nothing remarkable in this, for most such concretions are found to have a nucleus of some sort upon which they began to form. But the *Post* gives it as the opinion of Dr. Burke that the bean was swallowed, and "worked through the kidneys into the bladder!" We very much doubt if any surgeon ever made so absurd a statement, but if he did we would like to ask him how he supposed the bean got from the stomach into "the kidneys,"—or into a kidney, for the greatest ignoramus would hardly describe it as passing through both of those organs. There is a much more direct and easy passage by which children get peas and beans into their bladders than the unexplored route named by the *Post*.

CHICAGO OPERATIONS.—The *Chicago Tribune* says of the operations of the wheat gamblers there:

"The wheat gamblers continue to keep the market excited, and shippers and other legitimate dealers have been driven entirely out of the market for ten days past. The market having been largely oversold a combination of speculators was formed, and they purchased all the "spot wheat" offered, and thus forced the market up, compelling short sellers to settle at the advance figures. When the receipts are light, as they have been for a week past, this can easily be done, but when they are heavy it is rather a difficult and hazardous undertaking to work up a "corner." It is needless to state that the whole business is illegitimate and disgraceful; but it is one of the concomitants of a depreciated and over abundant currency. Merchants have been changed into mere speculators and gamblers by it, and it has disturbed and damaged the business of the entire country."

WILL OF THE LATE CHARLES MERRIAM.—The will of Mr. Merriam has been offered for probate, and contains bequests to the following public charities: To the Temporary Home for Destitute Children, the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches, the Sailors' Snug Harbor, the Home for Aged Men, the Industrial School for Girls at Dorchester, five thousand dollars each; to the Warren Street Chapel twenty-five hundred dollars; to the Washingtonian Home five hundred dollars; to the town of Concord (his birthplace,) for the benefit of its Public Library, one thousand dollars. He gives to his friend and pastor, Rev. Dr. Gannett, three thousand dollars. After making liberal bequests to all his near relatives, he leaves the remainder of his large property to his widow and children. His son Charles Merriam, and his son-in-law Francis Jaques are named as executors, and the same gentlemen with James H. Beal are designated as trustees.

GOLD SPENT ABROAD BY AMERICANS.—It appears from a letter of the Paris correspondent of a New York journal, that the American residents in Paris are becoming alarmed at the rapid and enormous influx of Americans in Europe. The alarm is caused by the money they are expending, which constitutes a draft taken directly from the gold capital of the country, and which being once scattered there, will never find its way back to the United States. It is estimated that there are forty or fifty thousand Americans now in Europe, who have gone over since the first of January. It is said that every arriving steamer is crowded with these pleasure-seekers, who go well provided with funds. This correspondent supposes that the number of American visitors to Europe for the next two or three years will average fifty thousand. Allowing each one to expend two thousand dollars, which he thinks exceedingly moderate, he makes out a yearly loss to this country, and gain to Europe, of one hundred million dollars in gold.

THE STATE THANKSGIVING CHANGED.—At a meeting of the Governor and Council held Wednesday

## THE CASTIN COINS.

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ONE of the earliest settled localities in Maine, as well as one of the most distinguished in our history, is the peninsula of Matchebiguatus, or Major Biguyduce, called by contraction Bagaduce, on which stands the village of Castine.

The origin and signification of this term have never been satisfactorily explained. Palfrey's History of New England intimates that "Point Bagaduce" was a name used as early as 1642, but I can find no authority for such a statement. An approximation to it appears in a deed dated August, 1644, from Gov. Winslow to John Winthrop and others, cited in a note to Winthrop's Journal, vol. 1, page 220, (Savage's edition), where the eastern possessions of the Plymouth Company are referred to, as located "at Matchebiguatus, in Penobscot." No such name is contained in any of the English or French documents relating to the Castin family. In 1760, the infant settlement of the present town of Castine was known as "Baggadoose." During the Revolution, it was called "Maja Bagaduce," and "Maje Bigaduce," more frequently the latter. Gov. Sullivan, in his History of Maine, repeatedly mentions "Bagaduce Point," and "Bagaduce Neck." His manner of spelling the word is now the most common. Williamson's History, vol. ii., page 572, *note*, says "the peninsula, now Castine, originally bore the name of a resident Frenchman, called *Major Big-*

*uyduce.*" As authority for this statement, the letter of Col. Jeremiah Wardwell, of Penobscot, dated March 21, 1820, and the certificate of Capt. Joseph Mansell, of Bangor, made June 27, 1831, are cited. Both papers are deposited in the library of the Society. They constitute the only support that a person named "Major Biguyduce" ever existed. Such an origin of the term is therefore erroneous. The author of the History of Maine seems subsequently to have been convinced of his mistake, for in one of his manuscript books, I find the following: "*Marchebagyduce*, an Indian word, meaning *no good cove.*" Mr. Eaton, in his *Annals of Warren*, page 20, *note*, also says Bagaduce is an Indian name, signifying "bad harbor." A tradition exists that it expresses the idea of great sorrow or trouble, because, at a remote period, the upsetting of a canoe in the swift current of the river, which flows above the peninsula, caused great loss of life, and consequent sorrow or trouble. Whatever may be the correct orthography of the word, no other conclusion than that it is of Indian derivation can be drawn. In support of which I can cite nothing more pertinent than the following extracts from a letter written relative to the matter, by the venerable Jacob M'Gaw, Esq., of Bangor, one of the founders of our Society, addressed to Hon. William Willis, under date of Aug. 5th, 1857.

"In my conversation with old Indians, I have learned from them that the word Majebiguyduce (first syllable pronounced as in our word *majesty*) is purely Indian, and is descriptive of the river which flows in front of the beautiful town of Castine. All old Indians unite in defining *Majebigaduce* as being '*a river having many large coves or bays.*' One intelligent Indian says that it expresses or includes the idea of the bar or ledge that crosses the river about two or three miles above the village of Castine, and just below two large bays at the head of the river, called Northern Bay and Southern Bay. This ledge resembles a low dam, over which the tide water falls, after about half tide, so as to render the navigation by large vessels or boats difficult, until the obstruction made by the dam or ledge is overcome. As the orthography of the word Major-biguyduce or Maje-bigaduce is altogether

er arbitrary, I have only attempted to spell it as nearly in accordance with the sound received as I can." <sup>1</sup>

The beauty and prominence of its situation, added to the security and extent of its harbor, attracted the attention of the first voyagers who sailed along our coast, and under the name of Pentagoet, it was a well known place of resort to the French fishermen, long before any settlement had been effected north of Virginia. Champlain, who in 1604 entered Penobscot Bay, and who may be regarded as the first known white man who looked upon its spacious harbors and verdant islands, gives a conspicuous designation to Pentagoet <sup>2</sup> on the map which accompanies the account of his voyages, and the same place is mentioned by Captain John Smith, who visited it twelve years afterwards, as the principal habitation he saw to the northward. <sup>3</sup> According to Bancroft, the first intelligible sounds of welcome which greeted the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, were from an Indian who had learned a little English of the fishermen at Penobscot. <sup>4</sup>

The Plymouth Company established a trading house at Penobscot in 1630, <sup>5</sup> where they carried on an extensive traffic with the natives, for five years, when D'Aulney, a subordinate commander under Razillai, the governor of Acadie, took possession of the country by virtue of a commission

<sup>1</sup> I think the proper spelling of the word is *Matche-Biguatus*. *Matche* means *bad*, — as *Matchegon*, the Indian name of the north-eastern end of Portland, means *bad clay*, and includes Clay Cove. *Matche*, in all the New England dialects, expresses something bad; it is from *Mat*, no, not. In the Narragansett, *Matchit* means naught, evil; and in all its combinations implies negation. What *Biguatus* means, I do not know. W.

<sup>2</sup> Champlain's Map, Berjon's edition.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc. iii. 21, 3d series.

<sup>4</sup> Bancroft's Hist. United States, i. 316.

<sup>5</sup> Bradford's Hist. Plymouth Plan., Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc. iii., 4th series.



from the king of France. Four years previous, the French had obtained entrance into this trading house, by means of stratagem, and robbed it of goods to the value of five hundred pounds. An attempt was made by the Plymouth men to displant the French, and regain their possession, but it failed through the incapacity of the director of the expedition which was dispatched for that purpose. D'Aulney erected a fort, and made Penobscot his fixed place of residence. After the death of Razillai, he became involved in hostilities with La Tour, who had established himself at the mouth of the river St. John, and who claimed that the government of Acadie had been rightfully delegated to him. The bloody contentions of these rivals continued for many years to disturb the tranquillity of the English settlements, and form one of the most romantic passages in the history of the new world. D'Aulney retained the control of Acadie until 1654, when it was conquered by the English. Col. Temple, the first English governor, resided at Penobscot after the French had left, and carried on a trade there.<sup>1</sup> By the treaty of Breda, in 1667, it was restored to its former owners,<sup>2</sup> and was by them retained for nearly a century.

#### BARON DE ST. CASTIN.

Although Penobscot is associated with the names of many of the most prominent adventurers who appear in our early history, that of Vincent de St. Castin is the most distinguished. He had been an officer in the body guard of the king of France, and was a man of wealth and distinction. Born near the Pyrenees, and accustomed to their wild and

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<sup>1</sup> Sullivan's Hist. Maine, 158.

<sup>2</sup> Holmes' Am. Ann. i. 346.



rugged scenery, the primeval forests of Acadie accorded well with his eccentric disposition, and soon after arriving at Quebec, in 1665, the regiment of which he was the commander having been disbanded, he selected the pine clad peninsula of Biguatus as his place of residence. On the same spot which had previously been occupied by D'Aulney and by Temple, he erected a fortified habitation, and for over a quarter of a century carried on an extensive and profitable trade; receiving supplies of merchandise from France, and exchanging them with the Indians for furs. La Hontan estimated his profits to have been two or three hundred thousand crowns,<sup>1</sup> and Castin himself informed M. Tibierge, in 1695, that eighty thousand livres could be annually realized at Penobscot out of the beaver trade.<sup>2</sup> A census of Acadie, taken in 1673, enumerates thirty-one white persons, including soldiers, who were connected with Castin's establishment.<sup>3</sup> He formed a close alliance with the savages, by marrying the daughter of Madockawando, their chief, and his influence over them was so great that they regarded him as their tutelar god. Within his habitation was a chapel, decorated with the emblems of the Catholic church, and attended by several priests, whose solemn rites and unintelligible ceremonies have never failed to impress a barbarous people. To the exertions of Castin may be traced the origin of Catholicism among the Tarratines.

The extent of dominion and the wealth which Castin acquired rendered him to the French a powerful ally, no less than to the English a formidable adversary. A zealous bigot in religion, he was the frequent instigator of hostilities towards the Protestants, and on repeated occasions he

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<sup>1</sup> La Hontan, *New Voyages*, i. 471.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoir on Acadie* by M. Tibierge, Oct. 1, 1695.

<sup>3</sup> Coll. French MSS. Sec'y's Office, Boston, ii. 253.

took command of the Indians aided by reinforcements of French troops, in expeditions against the New England settlements. In several instances, however, the English were the aggressors. King William's war, by some writers called Castin's war, which was carried on between Massachusetts and the eastern tribes from 1688 to 1697, originated in the unprovoked robbery of Castin by the English.<sup>1</sup> In June, 1688, Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of Massachusetts, without a reasonable pretext, and influenced only by a desire of enlarging his power and of increasing his wealth, proceeded to Penobscot in the frigate *Rose*. Entering the harbor, he anchored before Castin's door, and sent his lieutenant on shore to request an interview. The Baron, suspecting that it was designed to make him prisoner, immediately retired with his company from the peninsula, and the Governor on landing found the house deserted. All the arms and ammunition which the fort contained, together with a quantity of merchandise and furniture, he placed on board the *Rose*, and carried to Pemaquid, "in condemnation of trading at Penobscot." The altar, pictures, and ornaments of the chapel were left undisturbed. Andros afterwards sent word to Castin that every article seized should be restored, if he would render allegiance to the English. But the base act so exasperated him that he refused to reply, and used his exertions to excite the Indians to hostilities, which they commenced the following August.<sup>2</sup> During the war, the English burned all habitations on the peninsula, obliging Castin and his servants "to hide their merchandise far in the woods, so as to have it secure from plunder."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Belk. Hist. N. H. 135.

<sup>2</sup> Hutch. Hist. i. 330.

<sup>3</sup> Memoir on Acadie, by M. Tibierge.

In 1703, while Castin was in France, the English again visited his fort, which he had rebuilt, and plundered it of all its most valuable articles.<sup>1</sup> The next year, Major Church, in his fifth eastern expedition, killed or took captive all the inhabitants at Penobscot, both French and Indians, "not knowing," as he says, "that any one did escape." Among the prisoners was Castin's daughter, who said her father had gone to reside on his estate in France.<sup>2</sup> Church also carried away all the valuables which could be found.

Castin went to France in 1701,<sup>3</sup> and probably never returned to this country. His son by his Indian wife continued to reside at Penobscot, and for many years occupied an influential position among the savages. In the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are letters relative to Indian affairs, written as late as 1754, by Joseph Dabadis de St. Castin, who was probably a grandson of the Baron. Nothing is known of any of the family after that time. Some of them undoubtedly remained at Penobscot until the commencement of the French war. Gov. Pownall of Massachusetts, in 1759, took formal possession of the peninsula in the name of the King, and hoisted the English flag on Castin's fort. He found the settlement deserted and in ruins.<sup>4</sup>

It would be foreign to the object of the present article, to give any extended account of the history of Penobscot. It is sufficient to have traced the outlines of the principal events which occurred while it was under the control, and in the possession of the French, and especially during the residence of the Castins.

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<sup>1</sup> Hist. Maine, ii. 42.

<sup>2</sup> Church's Fifth Exp. 261.

<sup>3</sup> Copies of French MSS. in Sec'y's office, Boston, 5. 103.

<sup>4</sup> Gov. Pownall's Journal.

The mention of the discovery of a large and valuable collection of ancient coins in the immediate vicinity of Biguatus, is calculated to awaken all the interesting historical associations which for a period of nearly two centuries are connected with that locality, while the absence of even any traditionary evidence of such a deposit or concealment affords an opportunity for varied conjecture. It is proposed to give an account of this treasure trove, and of the means by which it was brought to light, and to make some suggestions as to the cause of its long inhumation.

It was not on the peninsula that these coins were found, nor within the limits of the town of Castine, but on the banks or shore of the Bagaduce river, about six miles from the site of Castin's fort, in the town of Penobscot. This river, at its mouth, forms the harbor of Castine, and is navigable for small vessels for several miles above the village. At about six miles above, is a point called "Johnson's Narrows," or "Second Narrows," where the water is of great depth, and at certain periods of the tide forms a rapid current. A path leads across the point, and from the adaptation of the shore as a landing place, it is probable that the usual passage from Biguatus to Mt. Desert, was up this river as far as the narrows. Near the narrows the coins were discovered.

The first indication of the hidden coins was perceived at the close of one of the last days in November, 1840, by Captain Stephen Grindle, on the farm he owned and occupied at the Second Narrows, before described. While engaged with his son, Samuel Grindle, in hauling wood down the bank to the shore, the latter picked up a piece of money near a rock which was partially buried in the ground. The rock was on a side hill, and when uncovered, presented an irregular surface of about four square feet. Its situation was some twenty-five yards from the shore, and in the di-

rect line of a beaten track through the bushes, which has been used as a path across the point for a time beyond the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants. At the termination of this path on the shore, is an indentation or landing place, well adapted for canoes, and the natural features and facilities of the spot are confirmatory of a tradition that one of the Indian routes from the peninsula to Mount Desert and Frenchman's Bay was up the Bagaduce river, and from thence across to Bluehill Bay. The land was very rocky, and covered with a second growth of trees; the original growth having been cut about seventy-five years. At the time the coins were found, Capt. Grindle, together with his father-in-law, Mr. Johnson, had resided on the farm for over sixty years. Portions of the top of the rock were embedded in the soil to the depth of a foot, and a clump of alders grew around. The appearance of the place is not now the same as when the discovery was made. Repeated digging has laid the rock bare to the depth of several feet, and the side hill has washed away.

Upon finding the first coin, which proved to be a French crown, Capt. Grindle and his son commenced digging away the earth around the rock, and by the time it was dark, had possessed themselves of eighteen or twenty additional pieces. They then abandoned the search, intending to renew it on the following day. That night a severe snow storm occurred, which covered the ground, and rendered further investigations during the winter impracticable. Early in the spring they resumed the examination. On the top of the rock, embedded in the mass, one or two coins were found, and upon striking a crowbar into the declivity, and grubbing up the alders, they came upon a large deposit, numbering some four or five hundred pieces of the currency of France, Spain, Spanish America, Portugal, Holland, England, and Massachusetts. Mr. Grindle's wife held her apron,

which her husband and son soon loaded with, as she afterwards remarked, "the best lapful she had ever carried." The greater part of the money was found contiguous to the rock, but many pieces were afterwards exhumed ten or twelve feet distant. As several of the smaller coins appeared to be scattered down the declivity, it was probable that they were washed away by the action of the elements. No vessel or covering, or remains of any, were found in connection with the coins. Appearances indicated that the deposit was originally made at the side of, or perhaps on the rock, without any protection except a perishable one. Many of the coins retained their original brilliancy, but some were blackened and discolored by exposure to the weather. Dr. Joseph L. Stevens,<sup>1</sup> of Castine, visited the spot early in April, 1841, while Capt. Grindle was still engaged in searching the ground, and several coins were dug up in his presence. An opportunity was afforded him to examine at his leisure the entire collection, before the owner had disposed of any portion, and to select the most perfect specimens of each variety which could be found. These, seventeen in number, he paid for at the rate of old silver. Other gentlemen secured similar samples; but Dr. Stevens' collection is the most complete that has been preserved. Most of the coins were paid to a creditor of Capt. Grindle, and ultimately found their way into the crucible of a silversmith. The exact amount which their fortunate discoverer realized probably exceeded five hundred dollars. No other money has ever since been discovered at Johnson's Point, but the extent of numerous excavations in its vicinity indicate that the neighboring inhabitants believe that additional treasures are yet concealed.

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<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Dr. Stevens for very valuable information in relation to the coins. Without his kind assistance, it would have been impossible to have prepared this article.

Most of the coins were French crowns, half-crowns, and quarters, all of the reigns of Louis XIII. and Louis XIV., and bore various dates, from 1642 to 1682. With a few exceptions they were bright and but little worn, and when placed where they were found could not have been long in circulation. Their excellent workmanship, compared with that of English or Spanish coins of a similar date, shows the superiority of the French in the arts, even at that period. The regularity of the letters, and the general appearance of each piece are but little inferior to those of the present age. On the obverse of all these French coins is a profile of the reigning sovereign, surrounded by the inscription "LVD-XIII.- (or XIV., according to the date,) D-G-FR-ET-NAV-REX," for "Ludovicus XIII. (or XIV.) Dei Gratiâ Franciæ et Navarræ Rex:" "Louis XIII. (or XIV.) by the Grace of God King of France and Navarre." Some of the specimens contain, between the letters G and FR, a small figure, such as a star, lion, &c., indicating under whose dictation the coinage took place. The profile on the crowns bearing date 1652 represents the king as a child, while that on those of 1680 exhibits the mature features of a stern man.<sup>1</sup> The two would not be recognized as the face of the same person. The reverse has the figure of a plain shield, surmounted by a crown, with a legend extending around as follows: "SIT-NOMEN-DOMINI-BENEDICTUM, that is, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." The letter A, which appears inverted before the last word on most of the pieces, denotes the mint mark of Paris.<sup>2</sup> At the left of the top of the shield is the date.

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<sup>1</sup> Louis XIV., often styled the Great, ascended the throne in 1643, in the fifth year of his age, under the regency of Anne of Austria, his mother. He died after a reign of seventy-two years: one of the longest on the pages of history.

<sup>2</sup> "The coinage of each of the French mints may be known by its mint-



French crowns of the time of Louis XIV. are now seldom to be found, except in the cabinets of numismatologists. A few years ago they were occasionally brought from Canada to the United States mint for recoinage, being so much worn as to be no longer passable.<sup>1</sup>

A large part of the money, numerically considered, consisted of the old Massachusetts or Pine Tree currency, of which there were fifty or seventy-five shillings, and nearly as many sixpences. They are of rude manufacture, very thin, and not uniform in diameter. The intrinsic value of a shilling, when un mutilated, is sixteen cents and two-thirds.<sup>2</sup> Both shillings and sixpences are simple in design. On one side a double ring around the circumference encloses the words "IN MASATHVSETS," and in the center is the figure of a pine tree. A similar ring on the reverse surrounds the legend "NEW ENGLAND, AN DOM," that is, Anno Domini. In the interior is the date, 1652, and beneath it the figures XII. or VI., according to the value of each piece in pence. This money was the first coined in the colonies, and with the exception of similar coins issued in Maryland, the only ones struck until the Revolution. The earliest emissions of the Massachusetts mint hardly deserved the name of money.<sup>3</sup> Their only inscriptions were the letters NE for New England, and figures indicating the value. Such rude impressions soon became the subject of fraudulent imitations, and in a few months more elaborate designs were substituted. Specimens of the first kind are exceedingly rare, as their circulation was of short duration. All the

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mark or letter; that of Paris is the letter A," &c. — Eckfeldt and Du Bois : *Manual of Coins*, 55.

<sup>1</sup> Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 57.

<sup>2</sup> *Dictionary of Coins*.

<sup>3</sup> *Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, 2d series, ii. 274.

Pine Tree money bears the same date, viz, 1652, although the mint was in constant operation for nearly forty years after. The reason of this is, that subsequent to the restoration, the coining of money by the colonies was declared an encroachment upon the royal prerogative,<sup>1</sup> and further issues were forbidden. This order was evaded by retaining the original date on all the pieces.<sup>2</sup> The Massachusetts mint was probably discontinued at the commencement of the reign of William and Mary, in 1688. Its products are said to have been current in this country down to the Revolution, although Judge Hutchinson, afterwards governor of Massachusetts, in 1761 sent a Pine Tree shilling and sixpence to England, "as something of a curiosity."<sup>3</sup>

The next largest proportion consisted of the clumsy, shapeless Spanish coinage, commonly called "cob money" or "cobs," and sometimes "cross money," from the figure of a cross, which always characterizes it. The meaning of the word "cob" is unknown. In Mexico, this currency was termed "*maquina de papalote y cruz*," that is, "windmill and cross money."<sup>4</sup> None of the specimens appear to have been made by machinery, but seem like lumps of bullion, flattened and impressed by the means of a hammer. The

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<sup>1</sup> Soon after the accession of Charles II., Sir Thomas Temple, Governor of Acadie, being at London, held an interview with the king, in the course of which his majesty expressed great dissatisfaction against the people of Massachusetts, for invading his right by coining money without authority. Gov. Temple exhibited some of the coin to the king, who seeing the pine tree, inquired what it was emblematical of. The immediate reply was that it was a figure of the royal oak which saved his majesty's life. This answer mollified the king, and induced him to favor the pleas which the Governor made in behalf of the colony. — Felt's Historical Account of Mass. Coinage, 38, 39.

<sup>2</sup> Barry, Hist. of Mass. i. 344, note.

<sup>3</sup> Felt's Hist. Account of Mass. Coinage, 49.

<sup>4</sup> Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 119.

figures and inscriptions are extremely rough and imperfect, and sometimes entirely illegible. The largest of these coins were originally made for dollars, and when new were of the lawful standard. Some of the specimens are what old writers frequently called pieces of eight. Those among the collection of Dr. Stevens are of different weight, and present every variety of form except that of a circle. In the center of the obverse are the pillars of Hercules, with the letters "PLVS VLTRA," "more beyond," crowded in without regard to order, and around the circumference "PHILIPPVS IIII.," or "CAROLVS II.," according to the date.<sup>1</sup> The figure 8 between the pillars on one of the largest pieces, and 2 on the smallest, indicate the value in réals.<sup>2</sup> On the side of the pillars are letters, which vary according to the date, and are probably mint marks. The reverse has a cross with arms of equal length, loaded at the ends, and of an unusual form, resembling the fan of a windmill.<sup>3</sup> The legend which surrounds the exterior, but which is usually mutilated by clipping, was originally "D-G-HISPANIARVM ET INDIARVM REX," "By the Grace of God King of the Spains<sup>4</sup> and of the Indies." There are mint marks at the ends of the cross, similar to those on the opposite side. Some of the specimens have a date on each side, which generally omits the thousandth and hundredth parts, so that "78" and "82" on the pieces

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<sup>1</sup> Philip IV., of Spain, reigned from 1621 to 1662, and was succeeded by his son Charles II., who continued on the throne until 1700.

<sup>2</sup> The Spanish réal varies in value from twelve and a half cents down to ten, according to the time of its coinage.

<sup>3</sup> Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 119.

<sup>4</sup> By the marriage of Ferdinand of Arragon to Isabella of Castile, in 1469, the two kingdoms of Arragon and Castile were united, and afterwards called "The Spains."

preserved are meant for 1678, and 1682. The full date, 1659, appears on another piece.

One of the cob dollars differs in some particulars from those already described. It is so much worn and battered that the inscriptions are almost obliterated. Instead of pillars, the obverse has a shield enclosing the national arms. The letter G and M, surmounted by O, are the only ones which remain, the latter being the mint mark of Mexico, showing that the coinage took place in that city.<sup>1</sup> This coin is probably the oldest one in the collection.

Among the Spanish coins were a few pillar dollars, which in size and execution resemble the cob money. The one secured by Dr. Stevens is of a hexagonal shape, and is much worn and clipped. The inscriptions upon the obverse are somewhat confused by having received two impressions from the same die. A double circle contains the legend "PHILIPPVS III. D-G," and within are the arms of Spain, enclosed in a shield. The value in réals is indicated by the letters VIII. at the right. On the reverse is "HISPANIA-RVM ET INDIARVM REX," as on the cob dollars. The pillars of Hercules, each surmounted by a crown, with "PLVS VLTRA" below, occupy the center. At the right of the pillars is the date, 1657. The letters "ORM" at the left hand, and OR beneath, are mint-marks.

Some Spanish half dollars, or pieces of four réals, were also found. These were made in Spain, and are superior in form and manufacture to the coinage of the colonies.<sup>2</sup> They appear to have been impressed by means of machinery, al-

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<sup>1</sup> Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 119.

<sup>2</sup> The silver coins of Spain and Spanish America are obviously distinguished: those of the Peninsula have on the reverse the national arms enclosed in a shield, while the coins of the colonies have the two pillars.—Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 119.

though the edges remain uneven. The obverse has a shield, like the pillar dollar. The surrounding legend is the same as that on the cob dollar of 1659. On the right of the shield is IIII, the number of réals, and the letter R, which is a mint-mark, occupies the other side. On the reverse is the date, 1640, and "HISPANIARVM REX." The omission of the remaining part of the inscription which the other Spanish coins contain denotes that this piece is not of American coinage. A plain cross, quartering the national arms, fills the center. Between two of the arms of the cross the figures 300, enclosed in a parallelogram, are impressed in such a manner as to efface a part of the legend.

There were several pieces of Portuguese money found. That preserved by Dr. Stevens is a twenty reis piece, and in size and shape resembles an old-fashioned pistareen. Its value by weight is twenty-two cents and a half. The inscriptions and figures are quite simple. The obverse has a plain shield surmounted by a crown, with a cypher on each side to signify its value in reis. Around the edge is the legend "IOANNES-III D-G-REX-PORTVGALIE," that is, "John IV., by the Grace of God King of Portugal." On the reverse a double circle contains the motto "IN-HOC-SIGNO-VINCES," "By this sign thou shalt conquer." A plain cross with arms of equal length fills the center, with the letter P at each angle, which are probably mint-marks. There is no date, but from the name of the sovereign, which is impressed upon the obverse, it must have been coined between 1630 and 1636.<sup>1</sup>

A few Belgic coins were found among the collection, — all three-guilder pieces, and also several rix dollars of Holland. One of the latter bore a date anterior to that of the landing of the Pilgrims. That which Dr. Stevens selected

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<sup>1</sup> John IV. was proclaimed king of Portugal in 1630, and died in 1636.

was struck in 1641, and is well preserved. In weight and size it resembles a modern Mexican dollar. The obverse has the figure of a knight in armor, his left arm resting upon a shield which encloses the figure of a lion rampant, the arms of the confederacy. Extending around is the legend "MO-ARG-PRO-CONFEO-BELG-GELD," for "*Moneta argentea provinciæ confœrationis Belgicæ*," or translated, "Silver money of Gelderland, a province of the Belgic confederacy."<sup>1</sup> The figure of a lion rampant occupies the reverse, with the motto "CONFIDENS-DNO-NON-MOVETVR," the contracted word being DOMINO, and the whole translated being "He that trusts in the Lord is not moved."<sup>2</sup>

The three-guilder piece is larger than the rix dollar. Its value in our currency is one dollar and seventeen cents. The figure on the obverse is that of a female leaning her left arm on a pedestal, that encloses a device that is too much defaced to be distinguished. Around is the legend "HANC TVEMVR, HAC NITIMVR," i. e., "This we support, on this we depend." The reverse has a shield, surmounted by a crown. Within the shield are the figures of two lions rampant. Over the crown is the date, 1682, and on the side of the shield "3 G.," for Three Guilders. The surrounding legend is "MO-NO-ARGENT-ORDIN-WESTF," or "New common silver money of West Friesland."

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<sup>1</sup> "The coinage of the Netherlands displays something of the intricacy of its political history. Several series of coins were minted contemporaneously, for many years previous to the Revolution. Each of the seven provinces had its own mint, but the variety in the coinage is not materially due to this fact, since, in most cases, they conformed to a common standard, making only a difference in the legend." — Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 91.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Folsom, Esq., late librarian of the Boston Athenæum, furnished me with the correct reading of this inscription.

It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance, taking into consideration the extensive intercourse which the American colonies always maintained with England, that among so many and so various coins, but a single piece of the money of that nation was found in the collection. This was a shilling, of the reign of Charles I., and is one of the specimens belonging to Dr. Stevens. It has evidently seen some service, but is in a tolerably perfect condition. The obverse of this piece bears a profile head of the king, crowned and facing the left, with the figure XII., denoting the value in pence, behind the head. The surrounding inscription is "CAROLVS I.D-G-MAG-BRI-FRA-ET-HIB-REX," "Carolus I., Dei Gratiâ Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex," that is, "Charles I., by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland." Immediately over the profile is the mint-mark, a diamond enclosed in a circle. On the reverse are the royal arms quartered on a plain shield. Separated by a circle is the motto "CHRISTO AVSPICE REGNO," "I reign under the auspices of Christ." There is no date on either side. According to Snelling,<sup>1</sup> the mint-mark on this piece was first used June 15th, 1641, and as Charles I. was executed seven years afterwards, the coin must have been struck between 1641 and 1649. The reverse of all the money coined during the reign of Charles I., from the penny to the crown, has the royal arms impressed.<sup>2</sup> In the first issues they were enclosed in a square shield, quartered by a cross. The edges of this coin are slightly mutilated by the process of clipping, an evil which became of fearful magnitude in England after the restoration. Macauley says that till the reign of Charles II. the art of milling, or manufacturing coin with a raised inscription around the edge,

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<sup>1</sup> Snelling : View of Silver Coin and Coinage in England, 36.

<sup>2</sup> Kelly's Cambist.



was not employed, and that the English money was struck by a process many generations old. The metal was divided with shears, and afterwards shaped and stamped by the hammer. A disparity in weight and size was therefore common; few pieces were exactly round, and there was no impression upon the edges. Clipping a half penny worth of silver from each shilling became a common and lucrative species of fraud, and the most rigorous laws were enacted for its prevention. The evil was remedied by calling in all the defaced money, and recoinage it by the means of machinery.<sup>1</sup>

Many conjectures and opinions have been raised to account for the deposit of these coins in the place where Capt. Grindle found them, but the most satisfactory conclusion which can be arrived at, is that they originally belonged to the Baron St. Castin. This is rendered probable from the location where they were discovered, from their age, and from the fact that a great proportion of them were of French manufacture. Johnson's Narrows are exactly in the route which it is reasonable to suppose Castin would have taken to escape from the English when his residence was attacked by them. It has been shown in another part of this article that the peninsula was repeatedly invaded during King William's war, and the Baron obliged to fly to the woods for safety. Probably it was on the occasion of one of these invasions that the treasure was lost or concealed. On the approach of the enemy Castin placed his most valuable articles in canoes and retreated with them up the river to the Narrows, and from thence crossed over to Frenchman's Bay or to Mount Desert. In the haste of conveyance, the coins, enclosed in a covering which was not proof against the action of the elements, were either lost, or laid down

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<sup>1</sup> Macauley's Hist. Eng. iv. 562, 563.

for some temporary purpose on the rock where they were found.<sup>1</sup> If it had been intended to conceal them, the earth would have been removed and a more substantial envelope provided. As none of the coins bore date subsequent to 1688,<sup>2</sup> it was probably between that year and the Peace of Ryswick, in 1698, that they were lost. The treasure therefore remained undisturbed for nearly a century and a half.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. William Hutchins, who is the oldest inhabitant of Penobscot, stated in 1855, that when he was young, he knew a man named Conolley, who informed him that a great many years ago, he found near Johnson's Narrows, at the shore, a chest or box covered over with moss, as if it had been exposed for a long time to the weather. Upon opening it, he found remains of goods.

<sup>2</sup> In 1852, there was picked up on the site of Castin's fort, a French half crown, of the same appearance as those discovered by Mr. Grindle.

<sup>3</sup> Penobscot is not the only place in the eastern part of Maine where hidden money has been found. About fifteen years ago, in the town of Sullivan, at the head of Frenchman's Bay, a farmer in plowing a neck of land in front of where the "Ocean House" now stands, turned out an old earthen pot containing nearly four hundred dollars worth of French crowns and half crowns, all bearing date about 1724. [*Machias Union*, July 8, 1856.] The coin wore a bright appearance, but the pot crumbled in its contact with the plow. This money was sold to a silversmith in Boston, but before it all found its way into the crucible, William G. Stearns, Esq., of Harvard College, secured some specimens, which are preserved with his valuable collection of coins.