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VALUE OF OLD COINS.

A BRIGHT CENT THAT IS WORTH A HUNDRED DOLLARS.

But Age Does Not Necessarily Make Value In Coins—The Silver Dollar of 1804 Is Worth $600—Value of Pine Tree Shillings—Points For Numismatists.

"Some pennies are worth a good deal of money," said a dealer in coins. "If you come across an old collection of copper cents in an out of the way corner, you will do well to examine their dates carefully. From the point of view of the numismatist their value depends largely upon their condition. For example, for a cent of 1799, in a fair state of preservation, we pay $5, but for a specimen of the same issue in first rate condition we would pay from $10 to $25, and for a perfect cent of 1799—that is, as bright and sharp as the day it was coined—we will pay $100.

"Do not attempt to clean coins that are in fine condition. They should be held only by the edges in handling them and ought to be kept wrapped carefully in chamois skin or soft tissue paper or laid on velvet. Gold and silver coins may be rinsed, not washed, in hot water and soap. Copper coins should be placed in sweet oil only to remove grease and dirt. Acids and scouring will ruin any coin of worth. Age does not necessarily make value in coins. The old Spanish silver pieces current in this country from 1700 to 1800 are worth no more than their face, and the same is the case with cents of 1798, 1802 and 1803, as well as with half dollars of dates between 1805 and 1835.

"Coins are classed, according to their state of preservation, as 'proof,' 'uncirculated,' 'fine,' 'good,' 'fair' and 'poor.' Proof coins are those which have been made for collectors by the mint regularly during the last 40 years. They are rendered brilliant by burnishing. Uncirculated coins are those which have been laid away carefully since the time when they were minted, so that they have the original mint luster and are as sharp as when coined. Fine coins have the hair, eyes and letters bold and sharp and not worn off or corroded. Good coins are those in which the hair and eyes show up well, the date and all the letters perfectly plain. What would be considered 'fine' for a cent, however, would only be 'good' in a gold coin. Fair coins have the date distinct, but hair and letters somewhat worn. Poor coins are those which have the date indistinct, or the hair and letters badly worn, or the surface badly corroded, or which have been pierced or battered.

"In America it is the fashion to make up sets of the different coins comprising all the years of their issue in as fine condition as it is possible to obtain them, and the demand for specimens which are difficult to get makes their value very high indeed. I will quote you some prices, which you must understand to apply to 'good' coins. Better or worse preservation would make a great difference in every case. On that basis a United States copper cent of 1793, with the clover leaf, is worth $25, or five times as much as the valuable cent of 1799. From that the premiums on cents run all the way down to 5 cents. The valuable dates, in order of worth, are 1793, 1799, 1804, 1795, 1796, 1809, 1811, 1808, 1797, 1818, 1800, 1801, 1805, 1806, 1798, 1807, 1823, 1857, 1810 and 1812.

"The bronze cents, such as are in circulation now, were first coined in 1864. None of them bears a premium except the issue of 1877, which is valued at 8 cents. Some of the old fashioned half cents are high priced. On a basis of 'good' condition the half cent of 1796 is worth $15. The issues of 1831, 1836, 1840, 1848, 1849 and 1852 fetch $3 each, while those of 1793, 1795 and 1802 we will pay $1 apiece for. None of the nickel cents is worth a premium except that of 1856, with a flying eagle, which you can sell for $3. A 5 cent nickel of 1877 is worth $1, and a nickel 5 cent piece of 1878 has a market value of 15 cents. There is no premium on those of any other year. Nickel 3 cent pieces of 1877 we pay 75 cents each for, while those of 1878, 1882, 1885 and 1886 are worth 5 cents each. None of the others bears a premium. If you are so lucky as to get hold of a bronze 2 cent piece for 1878, you will have no difficulty in disposing of it for $1, but no other issues have any extra value.

"The rarest and most desirable coin of the regular series is the silver dollar of 1804, which is worth $600. It is necessary, however, that the authenticity of the specimen shall be fully proved, as there are many altered dates in the market, as well as 'restrikes' made at a later period. The silver dollars of 1794, 1838, 1839, 1851 and 1852 are worth $25 each, while that of 1858 is valued at $15. Silver half dollars of 1796 and 1797 are worth $25 each. The issue of 1853, without arrowheads or rays, we will pay $15 for, and for that of 1838, with a small 'o' under the bust, we offer $10. A silver quarter dollar of 1827 is valued at $40, while the issue of 1823 is worth $20. Twenty cent pieces of 1877 and 1878 are marketable at $1 each.

"A silver dime of 1804 is worth $4; of 1797, 1800 and 1802, $3, and of 1798 $2.50. Silver half dimes of 1802 will fetch $30 each, and a value of from $1 to $3 attaches to these coins of the issues of 1794, 1796, 1797, 1801, 1805 and 1846. Silver 3 cent pieces of dates from 1863 to 1869 inclusive we offer $40 each for, while one of 1873 is worth $50. A gold double eagle of 1849 is worth $100. A half eagle of 1815 is worth the same price; likewise the half eagle of 1822. Half eagles of 1795, 1797, 1798 and 1828 can be sold for from $15 to $25 each. Quarter eagles of gold issued in 1796, 1797 and 1826 are valued at $10 each. The $50 gold piece of California commands a premium of from $10 to $15, but the $2.50, $5, $10, $20 and $25 gold pieces made from 1849 to 1854 by private [illegible] assay offices in California, Colorado and Oregon, because they do not come up to the mint standard of purity, are mostly below par.

"For the same reason the Mormon gold coins of Utah issued under the direction of the late Brigham Young and largely circulated from 1849 to 1860 will fetch very little more than their face value. Some of the old colonial coins have high values. The 'pine tree' shilling of 1650 is worth $25. A Maryland shilling of 1659 is valued at $10 and a Louisiana crown, coined in France, at $25. The copper threepence of Connecticut, issued in 1737, is appraised at $50. One variety has the inscription, 'I am a good copper,' and another has the device of an ax, with the words, 'I cut my way through.' A Florida silver half dollar of 1760 is worth $10, while the Virginia silver half dollar of 1773 is valued at $2. The pewter continental dollar of 1776 we will pay $3 for. A gold Vermont doubloon is worth $200, and a Vermont silver half dollar will fetch $100. The Massachusetts cent of 1788 is valued at $10. Washington silver pieces of 1792, bearing the bust and name of G. Washington, will fetch $50 each. All of the Washington coins, both of silver and copper, were minted in England as patterns, but the designs were not accepted, because it was considered contrary to the principles of our government to stamp the head of the president upon our coins."

A True Bunny Story.

Did you ever see a bunny? Well, I am going to tell you about one—a real, live bunny, not a speckled, grandpappy squirrel, but a sleek gray one. I don't like to tell you how my brother Will caught it, for fear you might think he is cruel, but he isn't. He is one of the kindest brothers that ever lived. He has a stock of the most delightful stories, with which he is always willing to entertain us, and then he is never too busy to take us sledding or to have a good romp. But I wasn't going to tell you about my brother, but about bunny. They both begin with "b," and maybe that is why I made the mistake.

Bunny was very playful and always ready to have a frolic, but he never liked any one so well as that brother I was telling you about. He seemed to

WILL WOULD TAKE A NUT AND BUNNY WOULD COME AND GET IT.

know when he was coming home from school, for every day, about the same time, he would go down to the gate and wait till he saw Will, then he would start off up the lane. When he got near enough, he would spring at his foot, run up the leg of his pantaloons and get into his pocket.

What do you think he was so anxious to get into Will's pocket for? I will tell you. Brother was a kind master and never came home without bringing some nuts for bunny, and he, of course, was very anxious to find his treasures.

When they got home he would sit on his hind legs and eat the nuts while Will got his dinner. After this important business was over they would both go up stairs, Will to lie on his bed while he studied and bunny to have a game of hide and seek. This is the way they played: Will would take a nut, bunny would come and get it, then off he would scamper to hide it under a fold of the bed quilt, thinking it would be quite safe there until he felt hungry enough to eat it. While he was running back to get another Will would quietly slip the same one out from its hiding place and give it back to him. Off he would run again to conceal his prize. In this way they would often play the whole afternoon.

One day bunny had been out, and he came home very sick. He had been badly hurt, but no one could tell how. We nursed him very tenderly, but he got worse and worse. At last he died, and poor Will was nearly heart broken over the death of his favorite. He made a wooden box for a coffin, and we buried the poor little fellow in the garden under a cedar tree. His tombstone was a wooden board, with these words printed on it:

"Here Lies Bunny Reed, who died Oct. 10, 18—."

"Twenty-five Off."

A want of familiarity with business practices sometimes leads to amusing and sometimes to embarrassing results and occasionally to both. A woman who kept a small seaside hotel thought it would be profitable to bring the fact to the attention of the public. Accordingly she drafted a suitable advertisement and carried it to the counting room of a newspaper, where she inquired the expense of several insertions.

It was the custom of this paper, where advertisements were inserted more than four times, to deduct 25 per cent from the usual rates. The clerk read over what she had written, estimated the space it would require and said, "It will come to $26, but as it is going in over four times it will be 25 off."

"Oh!" she exclaimed. "Why, that's very reasonable." And putting down a dollar she started for the door.

It was difficult to tell which was the more embarrassed, the landlady or the clerk, when he explained her [illegible] [illegible] "25 off" meant 25 per cent, and not $25.

A STRANGE MAGNET.

EXTRACTS PARTICLES OF IRON OR STEEL FROM THE EYES.

This Electro Magnet Has a Drawing Force of Sixteen Pounds—It Has Not Failed Since It Was First Used, About a Year Ago.

The magnet has now become one of the greatest aids to the eye surgeon. The wonderful power of electricity for human good is demonstrated every week at the New York Eye and Ear infirmary. Few persons know of the seeming marvels which have been accomplished with the giant electro magnet, which is located in the operating rooms of the institution referred to.

The particular use to which the electro magnet at the infirmary is put is to locate or extract particles of iron or steel lodged in the eye. The simplicity and utility of the plan are obvious, and yet this magnet represents the first practical experiment in the use of electricity to aid the surgeon in removing the bits of iron and steel which have, previous to the adoption of the magnet system, generally caused blindness.

The soft iron core of the magnet is about two feet long and three inches in diameter. It is pointed at each end. The winding is disposed on spools and is supplied with current from the house mains. The whole magnet rests on a stand and is arranged to turn easily at the touch of a hand. The most wonderful feature of the whole thing is the fact that this great power here displayed can be manipulated in so delicate a manner as to perform the nicest of operations.

Suppose a worker in iron or steel is struck in the eye by a fine splinter of metal from a machine. The case requires the attention of the most skillful specialist. So the sufferer is taken at once to the hospital. The first thing to do is to locate the piece of metal. The instrument used is a small needle highly magnetized with electricity. If the splinter is on the surface of the eye, it will cling to this needle and may be easily removed.

But it may have been hurled with such force as to have become imbedded in the eye itself. The white portion of the eye which surrounds the iris, or colored ring, is composed of tough muscles, which can be penetrated with only the greatest difficulty. If the iron or steel particle become imbedded in this muscular tissue, it will not yield to the magnetic needle.

Now comes the use of the large magnet. This instrument has a drawing force of 15 pounds. As the eye of the patient is pressed toward its point the subtle magnetic power begins to draw upon the splinter. The metal, struggling for release, bulges the eye from the socket. If not too deeply imbedded, the splinter will yield to the force, and, leaving the eye, become attached to the point of the magnet.

But as only too often occurs the metal may strike with such force as to perforate the coating and drop down into the cavity of the eyeball. Especially is this the case when it passes through the iris of the pupil. One instance was mentioned to me by the attendants at the hospital of a splinter which passed entirely through the eye and lodged in the coating on the other side of the ball. Applied to the eye, the big magnet will reveal with accuracy to the skilled sight of the physician the position of the troublesome particle. Knowing this, he can remove it by an operation. Only in the most desperate cases need loss of sight follow.

It is now little more than a year since the first experiment with the magnet was made at the infirmary. During that entire time not a single failure has been recorded. The magnet is as reliable as truth itself, and there are at least a dozen persons with unimpaired sight, the infirmary physicians say, who can thank the magnet and that only for the fact that they can see.—New York Herald.

A SOUVENIR OF THE WAR.

A Broken Tooth In His Tongue Over Thirty Years.

Dr. John J. H. Love of Orange, N. J., recently removed from the tongue of Lieutenant A. P. Haring of Montclair a piece of a tooth that had been imbedded beneath the surface for 34 years.

Lieutenant Haring was wounded at the battle of Kinston, N. C., a bullet having entered his left cheek, fracturing the jawbone and breaking off five of his lower teeth. The wound healed up and fragments of bone were gradually removed, but the veteran had been troubled at times of late by some object which seemed to be lodged in his tongue.

Mr. Haring finally became very much annoyed by soreness at the tip of the tongue, and Dr. Love was consulted. The doctor made an incision and removed the upper half of a tooth which an enemy's bullet had shattered. The piece of tooth had worked its way around from the left side to the right side of the tongue, and never came near enough to the surface to cause any ill effects until recently.—Exchange.

Tires Pumped Up For 5 Cents.

An Englishman has invented a nickel in the slot bicycle tire inflater. A stand holds the cycle, a tube connects with each tire, and when the latter is of sufficient hardness mechanical levers, actuated by the coin, shut off the air, rendering it impossible to burst the tires. When a coin is dropped into the slot, a handle is thrown into gear, which the contributor can pump easily. In case of a puncture the machine is so arranged that it may be worked at half pressure until the puncture is located. It is proposed to utilize side pillars for the delivery of oil, lamp wick, matches and other supplies. The inventor expects to organize a company and place his machines at all cycle resorts.—Exchange.

LAND GOING WHALES.

FACTS ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF KEEPING WHALES ALIVE ASHORE.

Captured the Two White Whales Which Were [illegible] at Barnum's—The Showman Triumphs Over the Naturalists—Whales Are Difficult to Keep Alive In Captivity.

Professor H. D. Butler, who brought the two white whales now in the New York aquarium from Riviere Ouelle, near the mouth of the St. Lawrence river, by railroad, in a recent interview spoke as follows about his achievement:

"In telling you how I keep a whale alive on land, it will be necessary for me to give away one of my professional secrets, but I guess there is no reason why I shouldn't give it away. First catch your whale. Then put him in a box, open at the top and lined with wet seaweed. That will give him enough moisture to keep him fairly comfortable. Now comes the trick of the trade—that is, to keep his blowhole moistened with a wet sponge. Of course you know that a whale is not a fish. He breathes air, like any other animal, and he has only one breathing passage, the blowhole. He can't breathe through his mouth as a man can, and if he caught a bad cold in his blowhole he would suffocate for lack of air. Now, if the blowhole dries up it cannot relax and contract, but stiffens up, and the whale promptly dies. Therefore it is necessary to keep it constantly moist. This requires little water. In fact, I think I didn't use more than two pailfuls on my two whales in the 900 miles trip down. That included a sponge bath apiece twice a day.

"I remember very well my first whale. That was about 30 years ago, when I was in the show business. I was employed in Barnum's museum here, and I also had an aquarium in Boston, where I spent one week out of the four. While I was there two men named Todd came from the mouth of the St. Lawrence with two whales packed solid, which they exhibited in a building on Chatham street. A [illegible] business they did, too, with those whales. Eventually the whales were dissected, and I was present at the dissection. Although I was no scientist, only a practical showman, I decided, on examining the internal economy of the subjects, that it was practicable to bring a live whale to Boston. Of the financial advantages of such a scheme I had no doubt.

"'If those fellows can make a good thing out of dead whales,' I said, 'I can make a fortune out of a live one.'

"So I went to see Professor Agassiz, who was at that time at the height of his fame.

"'Professor,' said I, 'how long will a whale live out of water?'

"'Not long, [illegible] a good, healthy specimen,' said he.

"'I'm going to bring one down here by train from the gulf of St. Lawrence,' I said. 'I believe I can keep him alive during the journey.'

"'Young man,' said he, 'don't you be a fool. If you've got money to waste, you can have a better time with it than that.'

"But I felt certain, and so I made arrangements with the Tolls to catch me a whale in the spring. They caught me a white whale, like the ones now in the aquarium here, and I got it as far as Portland without any one finding out about it. Then the newspapers got on, and the Boston papers published dispatches telling of our progress along the route. You'd have thought that whale was a member of royalty from the attention he attracted. That was the first whale ever brought alive into America, and everybody wanted to see it. I had a special exhibition, at which Agassiz, Longfellow, Wendell Phillips, Whittier, William Lloyd Garrison and other well known people were present. In congratulating me Professor Agassiz said:

"'I didn't think it could be done. There is nothing like believing in a thing and then going on and doing it.'

"No sooner had Mr. Barnum heard of my whale than he came to me and said:

"'Hell, Butler (that was the only profanity he ever used), why can't we have a whale in the museum?'

"At that time there seemed to be no space for a tank, but later I put one in. Meanwhile the Boston whale flourished, and I had a harness made for it, which I hitched to a water chariot. The whale would draw the chariot around the tank, and any child that wished could ride behind the monster. Meantime I was busy having a basin dug in the cellar of Barnum's museum, at Ann street and Broadway, New York. Another whale was caught, and I brought it in. How to keep the water in the tank fresh was a problem. We decided on a hole course, and on Saturday night a big gang of men were at work laying pipe from Fulton street to the [illegible] market to the river. It was done by Monday morning, before anybody had a chance to get out an injunction against it. A few people [illegible], among them the alderman of the ward, but the alderman—well, he was all right. I [illegible] the pipe is there yet.

"Soon we had a pumping engine working, and our whale was supplied with good fresh water. He lived for nine months. Afterward, when my Boston whale died, I brought up the tank, cut it down, put it in Barnum's, and got two more white whales. These were burned in the fire which destroyed the museum in March, 1868, a strange death for a whale. Some time after W. C. Coup, the showman, came to me with a proposition to start an aquarium at Thirty-fifth street and Broadway. At first I said I wouldn't go into it, but subsequently changed my mind.

"'I'll tell you what we'll do,' I said. 'We'll get a whale, put him under canvas [illegible] the aquarium [illegible] [illegible].'

[illegible]

"[illegible] They all [illegible] [illegible] these [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a whale [illegible] Barnum [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] all those [illegible] [illegible] they thought [illegible] was [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sent for me [illegible] [illegible] the lot. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and they all [illegible] [illegible] three.

"[illegible] would bring [illegible] [illegible] opposition. [illegible] I would get one. [illegible] I believe, [illegible] have some whales [illegible] never got them, and the [illegible]

"These are the only white whales of which have been in captivity in this country, except one at Coney Island some years ago. The whales now in the aquarium here are fine specimens. In their quarters, with plenty of fresh water, they should live a long time. As a rule, however, whales are delicate and difficult to keep alive in captivity."—New York Sun.

GREAT RAILWAY CENTER.

Buffalo Leads All Other Cities Save [illegible] Railway [illegible].

Buffalo is now the greatest railway center in the United States, and [illegible] more trackage than Chicago, [illegible] or St. Louis. The Buffalo Express, [illegible] pardonable pride, boasts of [illegible] ity of the Electric City. [illegible]

"Twenty-six great railroad [illegible] [illegible] their [illegible] [illegible] falo and 150 or more [illegible] [illegible] enter and leave the city every day [illegible]

[illegible]