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OLDTIME HALF CENTS.

Two of Them Sent to Washington Last Year for Redemption.

Gateway Magazine.

The treasury of the United States on May 6, 1903, redeemed two half-cent pieces. This is the first time in the history of the country that any such coins have been presented for redemption. It is more than a century since the first half-cent piece was coined, and it is hardly fifty years since the government discontinued minting them.

Possibly not one person in a thousand living in the United States ever saw a half-cent piece.

The last annual report of the director of the mint page 82, shows that 7,895,222 of these coins, representing \$39,476.11, were issued. For almost half a century each annual report of the treasury department has included them among the "outstanding" obligations of the government.

The half-cent piece was the coin of the smallest denomination ever made by this country. It enjoys the distinction also of being the first coin issued and also the first whose denomination was discontinued. The United States mint was established in 1792, and copper half-cents and cents were issued in 1793. Half the total number of half cents issued were coined previous to 1810, after which year their coinage, with few exceptions, was limited. None were coined for circulation from 1812 to 1824, nor from 1836 to 1848. Finally in 1857 their coinage, with that of the big copper cent, was discontinued. On account of their limited issue in the last years of their coinage they practically had disappeared from the channels of trade.

The need of adopting the half cent as the lowest value computing factor for a coin were made in the early days of the republic. Colonial half cents and British farthings of the same commercial value were then in circulation, and many articles were priced and sold in half cents. With the progress of the nation value arose and the needs for a half cent disappeared and their use following the first decade of the century was almost entirely confined to multiples.

While all other discontinued types and denominations of United States coin have found oblivion, the half cent is the only one of which the treasury reports do not record some portion of the issued redeemed. This singular and unexplained fact has been one of frequent comment and inquiry from mint and treasury officials.

Large quantities of the half cents are to be found in the stocks of coin dealers. The most common dates are sold at a good premium, and the extremely rare ones are worth their weight in gold.

Ferran Zarbe of St. Louis was the man who sent the two half cent pieces to Washington for redemption. He now prizes highly the little voucher calling for "one cent" which was sent to him with that amount of current coin in exchange for the two half cent pieces he had forwarded.

An old farmer, who, by hard work and parsimonious habits had got together a little fortune, decided that the time had at length arrived when he was justified in ordering a family carriage. He went to a carriage builder's and described in detail what kind of vehicle he wished to buy.

"Now I suppose you want rubber tires?" said the carriage builder.

"No sir," replied the old farmer, in tones of resentment. "My folks ain't that kind. When they're riding they want to know it."

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Dramatic Climax to an Exciting Will Contest Case.

Lippincott's.

The conversation turned on the momentous effects of trifles at times when they were least expected to have any influence at all and this reminded Mr. Thompson of an episode in his own practice as a lawyer.

"It was the most exciting legal battle of my life," he said, and every one present begged him to tell it.

"A fight was going on for the possession of a large fortune," continued he, while the others settled themselves for the story. "A wayward son was contesting the will of his father, and the case abounded in dramatic features. Charge and counter charge were frequent. The young man was explosive, hot tempered and without character. How much his family had suffered through him no one ever knew. The young rascal had hoped now he saw the case going against him and the money slipping through his fingers. The last link in the chain of evidence was all that was needed, and that would be supplied by the testimony of his sister. Her name was called, and as she stood up—she was a beautiful creature—there arose a buzz of admiration such as sometimes comes from an audience. She flushed at that and hesitated, then started for the witness stand. I got up as she was passing me, intending to reassure her, and accidentally stepped on her gown. Gowns had a slight train in those days. My awkwardness saved her life."

He paused for a moment to note the effect of his words. "The admiration of those in the courtroom was the final touch to that worthless brother. He sprang up and, drawing a revolver from his pocket, exclaimed, 'Well, if I don't get the money you never will,' and fired at her as she came toward him. My checking her by treading on her gown made her step backward, and the bullet missed her by an inch."

Insect Injuries to Corn.

Great is the American corn plant, and to it is devoted a portion of the annual report of the Illinois state entomologist under the subject of "The More Important Insect Injuries to Indian Corn." The same is also published as bulletin No. 96 of the Illinois experiment station. Concerning as it does, one of the industries of widest extent throughout the United States, the information given touches the interest of nearly every region of the country. Every farmer north, south, east and west may take an instructive stroll with Dr. Forbes through the entomologic field. There are few who will not learn something of worth from the practical report, and the illustrations really illustrate it in an exceptionally clear and admirable manner.

While the economic feature receives full attention, the author also takes into account the rapidly rising interest in nature study and makes his report of material value for this purpose to the public school teacher and student of whatever grade. The study presented is intended to furnish a clew to the whole system of insect life of which the corn plant is the center. It thus stands as many respects a type or example of the relations of a plant to its insect visitants.

Dr. Forbes has a pleasing way of throwing illuminating side lights on the statements of familiar facts, to the increase of their interest and value.

New Wheat Territory in Mexico?

A Canadian authority affirms the strong probability that Mexico will become one of the great wheat producing countries within the next few years. Experiments with different kinds of wheat show yields of from fifty to sixty bushels of wheat to the acre from the "turkey red" variety. It is stated that a number of syndicates have obtained concessions from the government by which they have the use of large areas of land for terms of years, and if it is discovered that large crops can be raised in Mexico an endeavor will be made to place the grain growing industry on a commercial footing.

Making Friends Every Day.

This can truthfully be said of

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The new product for making the most delicious ice cream you ever ate; everything in the package. Nothing tastes so good in hot weather. All grocers are placing it in stock. If your grocer can't supply you send 25c. for two packages by mail. Four kinds: Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry and Unflavored. Address, The Genesee Pure Food Co., Box 293, Le Roy, N.Y.

VILLAGES IN THE DARK.

Japanese Settlements Amid Dense Groves of Evergreens.

Atlantic.

Without having actually seen them you cannot imagine how dark some Japanese country villages remain, even in the brightest and hottest weather. In the neighborhood of Tokyo itself there are many villages of this kind. At a short distance from such a settlement you see no houses; nothing is visible but a dense grove of evergreen trees.

The grove, which is usually composed of young cedars and bamboos, serves to shelter the village from storms and also to supply timber for various purposes. So closely are the trees planted that there is no room to pass between the trunks of them; they stand straight as masts and mingle their crests so as to form a roof that excludes the sun. Each thatched cottage occupies a clear space in the plantation, the tree forming a fence about it double the height of the building. Under the trees it is always twilight, even at high noon, and the houses, morning and evening, are half in shadow. What makes the first impression of such a village almost disquieting is not the transparent gloom, which has a certain weird charm of its own, but the stillness.

There may be fifty or a hundred dwellings, but you see nobody and hear no sound but the twitter of invisible birds, the occasional crowing of cocks and the shrilling cicadae. Even the cicadae find these groves too dim and sing faintly. Being sun lovers, they prefer the trees outside the village. I forgot to say that you may sometimes hear a viewless shuttle—chaka-ton, chaka-ton—but that familiar sound in the great green silence seems an elfish happening. The reason of the hush is simply that the people are not at home. All the adults have gone to the neighboring fields, the women carrying their babies on their backs, and most of the children have gone to the nearest school, perhaps not less than a mile away.

Speechless.

London Tatler.

Two workmen were engaged in digging a well when suddenly a portion of the earth gave way, falling on and knocking down one of the men. His companion called to him and listened anxiously for a reply.

"Pat, speak, man!" cried Mike again from above. "Are you dead?"

"No, Mike," came the answer, with a groan. "I'm not dead, but I'm spachless."

Without more ado Mike set off for help as fast as his legs could carry him. Thumping loudly on the door of Pat's kinsfolk, he summoned help, explaining that Pat had been knocked "spachless" and was buried by the earth in the well.

"Who told ye so?" was the unexpected matter of fact inquiry.

"He told me himself," retorted Mike, indignant at his word being doubted, "and, begorra, woman, if ye don't believe me come and ask him, and he'll tell ye it's the truth I'm speaking!"

A little three-year-old miss, while her mother was trying to get her to sleep, became interested in a peculiar noise and asked what it was.

"A cricket dear," replied the mother.

"Well," remarked the little lady "he ought to get himself oiled."

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CATARRH CURED, HEARING RESTORED.

After 25 Years of Suffering with Catarrh, Which Caused Deafness, Mr. W. Scott Was Completely Cured by DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY



W. SCOTT.

3758 N. Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., March 10, 1901.

Dear Sirs: I have now used four bottles of your Malt Whiskey, and think I owe my life to this whiskey. I am 67 years old and have had catarrh of the nose, throat and head for twenty-five years or more. I am hard of hearing. About six weeks ago I was so sick I could not eat, sleep and hardly able to walk. Felt more like dying

than living. Was under a doctor's care and taking all kinds of drugs and medicine, douches, solutions in nose, etc. The doctor nearly blew my head away with a powerful air pump—medicated air, he called it. It did absolutely nothing in my case. I threw everything away—medicine, air pump, douches—and commenced on Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey. I felt better from the start. I take one ounce with water before and after each meal and at bedtime, and now, after using four bottles, I can eat and drink and sleep well, and I feel better to-day than I have for twenty years. I was opposed to all kinds of liquor and used none for twenty-five years. I use Duffy's as a medicine only, and shall continue to use it as long as I live, if I can get it. I know it will keep me alive, and may in time improve my hearing. I hope it will. Yours very sincerely,

W. SCOTT.

A LATER LETTER.

Dear Sir: I have improved some since writing you before, only occasional cough and very little discharge from nose. Feeling much better. My hearing is much improved now; not so much roaring in my head since Duffy's has brought my blood to a healthier condition and motion.

Sincerely yours,
March 31, 1901.

W. SCOTT

Thousands like Mr. Scott have been cured of Catarrh, Asthma, Bronchitis, Influenza, Grip and Consumption by Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, which stimulates, enriches the blood, aids digestion, builds new tissues and kills disease germs. The system must be kept strong and vigorous, so that it will throw off disease. It is the run-down, worn-out system that contracts those diseases which so often prove fatal. Take heed, build up your body, keep your blood rich and the circulation normal, then you need have no fear of disease.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is prescribed by doctors and used exclusively in all the prominent hospitals. It has stood severe tests for fifty years and always found absolutely pure and free from fusel oil and all dangerous ingredients.

CAUTION.—When buying Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey be sure you get the genuine. Unscrupulous dealers, mindful of the excellence of this preparation, are seeking continually to put upon the market for profit only, and will try to sell you cheap imitations and so-called Malt Whiskey substitutes, which, far from relieving the sick, are positively harmful. Demand Duffy's and be sure you get it. It is the only absolutely pure malt whiskey which contains medicinal health-giving qualities. Look for the trade-mark, "The Old Chemist," on your label.



The genuine Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is

Sold at all Dispensaries,

or direct at \$1.00 a bottle. Refuse imitations and substitutes, there is none just as good as "Duffy's." It is the only whiskey recognized by the Government as a medicine. Valuable medical booklet sent free. Duffy Malt Whiskey Company, Rochester, N. Y.

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