

through the wood or jungle, when not excited, or his approach to a suspicious object, is as stealthy as that of a cat. So that very frequently the hunter, with every sense alive to the slightest indications of the presence of game, finds himself suddenly before an enraged rogue, who has stood almost within reach of him, silent as the tomb, for perhaps half an hour.

Then comes the attack, which is always made with the trunk. Even in their quarrels among themselves the trunk is the first weapon of offense; and a hunter once saw a fight between a tusk and a tuskless elephant, in which the latter, winding his trunk quickly about one of the tusks of his antagonist, by main force snapped off a piece, which afterward proved to weigh over sixty pounds. The huge feet, however, are the executioners, and speedily stamp an antagonist, be it tiger or man, into a shapeless and bloody lump. They have also a trick of killing by tossing the enemy back and forth between the hind and fore leg, each toss adding also a stamp; this being done, probably, to protect the tender feet from the sharp claws of the tiger, who would not fail to leave his mark were he simply retained beneath one foot. It occurred once to a British officer in Ceylon to be thus tossed by an infuriated wounded elephant. He was rescued, much hurt, but not mortally wounded, the blinded animal vainly attempting to trample him after each concussion. He describes the sensation as one by no means to be desired.

"That which we somewhat superciliously call instinct" is in the elephant a very wonderful faculty. Two elephants had been directed to knock down a wall by their cornacs, who had dismissed them to their task with their trunks guarded by leather, and with the usual promise of fruit and spirituous liquors if they performed it well. The elephants proceeded to their work, not singly, but, doubling up their guarded trunks, they combined their forces, and swaying themselves in equal and measured time, these huge living battering-rams propelled their broad fronts against the building. As it shook under the repetition of their overpowering and uniform shocks, they watched the vacillating equilibrium of the tottering wall; and having made at the precisely proper moment one grand, simultaneous effort, suddenly drew back to avoid the tumbling ruins.

The mahouts obtain a remarkable ascendancy over their charges, and train them to such a degree that they obey unfailingly even the slightest signals. Bishop Heber mentions a horrible instance of this. Just before his arrival in India one of these mahouts had been executed for revenging himself on a woman, who had said something to offend him, by means which he thought would be undiscovered. He made a sign to his beast, which, in obedience, instantly killed her. When Tavernier traveled with the Mogul's Mohammedan army, he was at first lost in astonishment at seeing the elephants, as they marched along, seize upon the idols that stood before the pagodas and dash them to pieces, to the great distress and discomfiture of the Hin-

doos; but he soon found out the carefully-concealed truth. The mahouts made, as they passed, secret signals to their beasts to destroy the symbols of a mode of faith offensive to them.

Such is the elephant; about whom I have told, not all that is worth telling—for if all were written this would be truly an *elephant* number of *Harper's Magazine*—but all that my friend the editor will give me space to tell. And now—

You want to know about the cask? I'll tell you—but privately; for somebody may want to try the trick again. I got tired of a New Bedford whale-ship, cruising for sperm whales on the coast of Ceylon; and by the kindness of an old shipmate was taken secretly on board the good bark *Pauline Haughton*, of London, bound to Trincomalee. Now as I had no money to pay my passage, and the operation was not one which was likely to gain the unlimited approbation of Captain Smith, it was thought best not to call his attention to the fact of my presence on board. For which reason I was carefully stowed away in an empty cask, labeled as aforesaid, the former contents of which had solaced the worthy captain during the tropical heats of an India voyage; whereby he was relieved of a heavy responsibility, and I got safely to Trincomalee—not so brown as the *stout* whose place I took, but quite as lively.

## LOST ON THE PRAIRIE.

OH, my baby! my child! my darling!

Lost and gone in the forest wild!

Mad gray wolves on the prairie snarling—

Snarling for thee, my little child!

Lost! lost! gone forever!

Gay snakes rattled, and charmed, and stung!

On thy head the sun's fierce fever,

Dews of death on thy white lip hung!

Dead and pale in the moonlight's glory!

Cold and dead by the dark pine-tree!

Only a small shoe, stained and gory,

Blood-red, tattered, comes home to me!

Over the grass that rolls like ocean

On and on to the blue, bent sky,

Something comes with a hurried motion—

Something calls with a choking cry:

"Here! here! not dead, but living!"

God! Thy goodness!—what can I pray?

Blessed more in this second giving,

Laid in happier arms to-day.

Oh, my baby! my child! my darling!

Wolf, and snake, and the dark pine-tree,

Still are whispering, hissing, snarling—

Here's my baby, safe with me!



FIGURE 1.—THE WASHINGTON HALF-DOLLAR.  
(From the collection of F. A. Paddock, Esq.)

### COIN IN AMERICA.

**T**HE necessity of coin, as a medium of trade, was felt in America at an early period after the settlement of the country. The wampum of the Indians was used by the white settlers of Massachusetts to a considerable extent at first. Wampum seems to be a primitive form of money, unlike that of any other part of the world. The value of gold depends on its scarcity, and of silver as well. Sheep and cattle were worth more or less as they served the purposes of men for food or labor; but wampum is the result of labor only, and its value seems to be only the value of so many hours' work of a man's hands. It consisted of strings of white shell, a valueless article itself, except as it had cost time and labor to make it on the sea-shores of New England.

Is there not a lesson in this North American Indian medium of circulation to which, in a more civilized nation, and a later period, we may turn with some degree of respect? Are we not arriving at an age of the world when gold is becoming more plenty—when its proportionate value to other metals is vastly decreasing, and when some new standard of value will be necessary? Have we not already arrived at an age when the true standard of value is labor? It is worth thinking of, to say the least of it.

The earliest coin known to have been struck

for American circulation was a piece of brass called now the Somers Islands piece. The Bermudas were discovered in the sixteenth century, but afterward named the Somers Islands from Sir George Somers, who was wrecked there in the early part of the seventeenth century. There is extant in England a specimen of a coin, with a hog on one side and a rude ship or vessel on the other. The legend is SOMERS ISLANDS XII. This coin has no date. Not more than three specimens are extant, none of which are in America. The coin is of little interest to us as a nation, not being continental.

The first coins strictly North American were the New England coinage of the Massachusetts mint, in 1652. First came the New England coins of one shilling and sixpence (Figure 2). They were rude silver pieces, characteristic of the early colonial settlements.

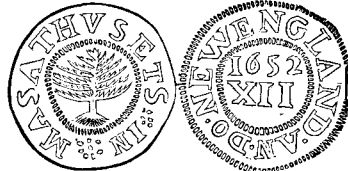


FIGURE 3.—PINE-TREE SHILLING.

They were followed by the well-known Pine-tree coins, which were issued in great quantities and variety, and formed the chief article of circulating medium in New England for nearly a century.

Doubtless some readers are familiar with an anecdote of John Hull, the contractor for the Massachusetts mint, who coined this Pine-tree money. This has appeared in various shapes, the most romantic being that, when his daughter was married to Samuel Sewall, he gave her, for dowry, the pine-tree shillings which equalled her own weight, she being placed in one side of the scales and the shillings poured in the other, the wedding-day being selected for the trial. If the girl was of modern mould we might think a hundred pounds a fair light weight, and the dowry would then not seem large, for a hundred pounds of silver were not then worth much more than \$1600, and the girl was not worth much if that were all her value. A very different weight from the

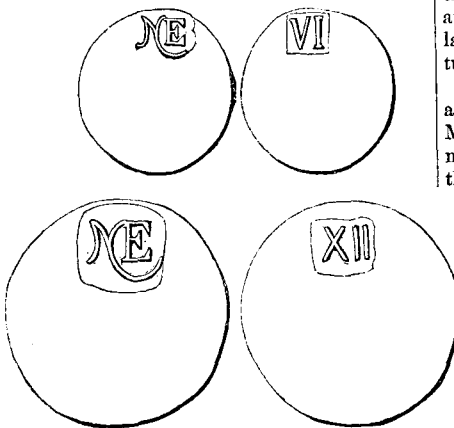


FIGURE 2.—NEW ENGLAND SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.  
(First American coinage.)