

MOTTO'S ON COINS

For centuries the Popes expressed in biblical phrases or moral sentences lessons of charity and kindness in the legends stamped on their coins. These coins have been out of circulation for a long time, but the Popes evidently believed that the instruments of charity should be regarded as preaching a sermon on charity. The New York Tribune relates a few of these brief sermons which the Popes preached to the people over whom they ruled and which undoubtedly contributed to the exercise of the virtue of charity which was thus so universally inculcated. The legends or inscriptions are all in Latin, and each almost fills the reverse side of the piece, whether gold or silver. "There is no one wicker than the miser" is the pronouncement made by a gold scudo (or crown) of Pope Innocent XI, who filled the papal chair from 1676

to 1689. A half scudo in value, bears the inscription, "The miser will not be filled," and still another bears the phrase, "The things preserved perish." Pope Clement XI. (1700-1721) issued a silver coin on which it is said, "Silver kills many," and on a golden scudo he offers this counsel: "Obey not the empire of gold." "Do not desire money" is another counsel of his, and the suggestive phrase "It is not for avarice" is seen upon another of these coins. "Care follows increasing wealth" cries out a coin of Pope Alexander VII.

MONEY AND DEATH

And of how little use money will be when the curtain falls on life is brought home to the minds of most men by the warning that speaks from coins of Innocent XI: "They will not profit thee in the day of judgment." The pontificate of Innocent XI, though only thirteen years in duration seems to have been rich in the variety and beauty of the sayings on the coins issued. "He that loves gold will not be saved" is the motto on a golden crown, and another reads, "He who trusts in riches will fall." The same pontiff asks: "What doth it avail a man? What doth it avail a fool?" and the question, meeting you on a coin, has a special directness that one cannot avoid.

MONEY AND PERDITION

Innocent XII. speaks touchingly to those whose hearts are fixed on the accumulation of wealth when, on a coin of about two francs nominal value, he says, "Let it not be to thy perdition." And the effect of avarice on the mind is admirably suggested by the words on another coin of the same Pope, "Money has no value." The money-grabber is universally denounced. "Who is poor? The miser," is the question and answer which another coin gives. "What I have I give to thee," is the phrase on another coin on which is represented St. Peter healing the lame man. The bearer of the coin may not be able to heal otherwise than by giving what he has. Another pertinent question is asked on one of these pieces of money. "But these things which thou hast gathered, whose will they be?" Such a question must raise serious considerations in the minds of thoughtful men.

GIVE IT AWAY

But the owners of money are recommended to bestow it well. Clement XI. on a golden Julius says, "Let it abound to the glory of God." When rightly employed money may do much good, and this is declared by Clement X. on the coin which bears this pro-

ouncement, "It diminishes evil and increases good." And on another coin a generous giver is described, "He hath opened his hand to the needy." "Do not forget the poor," is the recommendation on the coin of two pontiffs. A piece of the value of a threepenny-bit bears this inscription, "A little to the just," and on a much smaller coin is the truism, "It hurts less." "Forbid that I should glory save in Thee," was the motto on the coin or medal of Pius V., which was made a memorial of the battle of Lepanto. "He who gives to the poor will not wait," is a consoling reflection as it suggests that the reward of the just will be bestowed soon on the charitable man. "Use moderately like a man," is a saying that awakens universal response.

LEND TO THE LORD

"That it may be given," tells the purpose for which the coin was

issued. He lends to the Lord who has mercy on the poor," is the inscription on a silver piece of about eightpence nominal value. And so the series goes on in various phrases, all more or less directed to the objects already noted. There are the uses of wealth to which popes called the attention of the possessors of money, and this throws light on the character of the Papacy.

IN GOD WE TRUST

The motto, "E Pluribus Unum," never authorized by law to be placed on the coin of the United States, first appeared on an American coin in 1783. There was no United States mint then, and, in fact, no United States, the constitution forming the Union not having as yet been adopted. There was a private mint at Newburg, N. Y., and "E Pluribus Unum" was first placed on a copper coin struck at that mint. Few collections have specimens of this coin, and it is valuable. In 1787 a New York goldsmith coined a piece of money which was known as "the sixteen-dollar gold piece," and upon it the motto was stamped in this form, "Unum E Pluribus." Only four of these coins are known to be in existence. They are valued at more than \$2,000 each. New Jersey issued various copper coins in 1787 with the motto stamped upon them. A great many of the early coins, before there was any legal authority for national coinage were made in England. Most of these were copper, and were coined for different states, and all bore the words "E Pluribus Unum." The United States mint was established in 1792, but the use of the national motto on any of the gold, silver or copper coins was not authorized or directed by any of the laws of the United States until 1834. The motto remained on the early gold and silver coins until 1834, when it was omitted from the gold coins. In 1836 it was omitted from the 25-cent pieces, and in 1837 from all silver coins. It was not stamped on any coin again until it appeared on the nickel and the standard dollar. The words "In God We Trust" were first placed on the 2-cent piece which came into the subsidiary coinage in 1866. The motto was placed there by direction of James Pollock, then director of the United States mint at Philadelphia, and not by any legislation of Congress authorizing the minting of the 2-cent piece. The motto was subsequently stamped on the silver half and quarter dollars.

"When you have leisure," said a caller to the city editor, "I would like to speak to you." "All right; come after I'm dead."

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