

Early Historic Relics of the Northwest

By James Davie Butler, LL. D.

In the seventh volume of the *Collections* of this Society, I contributed an account of a Westphalian medal of 1648, which had been plowed up in our Northwest, in Buffalo Co., Wis., in 1861. It was my endeavor to show that that relic might very possibly have been brought to America by Hennepin, the first white man who ascended the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony.

A Venetian Medal of 1685

Oddly enough, I have now fallen in with a sort of counterpart to that Buffalo finding—a medal which, it may be, belonged to a man who discovered as much of the Southern Mississippi as Hennepin did of the Northern.

The oldest of all portable monuments are coins and medals. They are “eternal jewels.” The places where they turn up are as surprising as their age. Such an antique lately came into my hands at Ottawa, Illinois, where a countryman or peddler had sold it as old silver to a dealer in bric-a-brac.

Its date is 1685; it is in perfect preservation, and evidently a Venetian medal. On the rim between the two faces are the words: *Virtute et fortuna Venetorum*—“By the valor and success of the Venetians.”

The obverse is the Venetian lion triumphing. His left paw holds an open book inscribed, *Pax tibi, Marce, evangelista meus*—“Peace to thee, O Mark, my evangelist.” Beneath his feet are a cimetar, spear, and three chains, which hold captives, who are turbaned and kneeling, one bearing the crescent badge, another with hands bound behind his back. Other captives are half seen. Behind all, and beneath a star, is a warrior wearing a cap peculiar to the doge of Venice. Above all are the words, *Leoni Ultori*—