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T A B L E  
O F  
E N G L I S H  
S I L V E R C O I N S

FROM  
The Norman Conquest to the Present Time.

WITH  
Their Weights, intrinsic Values,  
AND  
Some Remarks upon the several Pieces.

*By Martin Folkes, Esq;*

L O N D O N,  
Printed for the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES,  
M D C C X L V.



\*CJ  
2450  
FV10  
1745

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T A B L E  
O F  
E N G L I S H  
S I L V E R C O I N S.

**T**HE two first kings after the Conquest coined only WILL. I. 1066. WILL. II. 1087.  
PENNIES, of which I have seen fourteen or fifteen different types. They agree, as near as can be judged, in weight and goodness, with the pennies of the Saxon kings, their immediate predecessors. It is therefore reasonable to think that king William introduced no new weight into his mints; but that the same weight used there for some ages after, and called the Pound of the Tower of London, was the old pound of the Saxon moneyers before the Conquest. This pound was lighter than the Troy pound \* by three quarters of an ounce Troy, and

\* The Troy weight, *Pondus Trecentese*, from Troyes in Champagne, is generally supposed to have been introduced here by the Normans; but does not seem to have been immediately established. It is most probable that the Pound of the Tower, or the Moneyers pound, was also the pound in common use before the Conquest; and that it continued to be so for a considerable time after, till the Troy pound, perhaps from its greater weight, got

the preference by degrees. It is observable, that in the old statute called *Affisa panis et cerevisie*, 51 Hen. III. and which it self refers to "older ordinances made in the time of the king's progenitors," the weights of the several quantities of bread, *etc.* therein mentioned, are not expressed in Troy but in money weights, that is, in pounds, shillings, pennies, and farthings. "When a quarter of wheate is sold for xii d. then wastel breade

## A TABLE OF

WILL. I. 1066. and did not very sensibly differ from twelve ounces of the weight still used in the money affairs of Germany, and there known by the name of the *Colonia* weight. And  
WILL. II. 1087. whereas

“ breade of a ferthing shall weigh vi li.  
“ and xv s. Bread cocket of a ferthing  
“ of the same corne and bultel, shall  
“ weigh more than wastel by ii s.  
“ Cocket breade made of corne that  
“ is of less price, shall weigh more  
“ than wastel by v s. A sinnel of a  
“ ferthing shall weigh ii s. less than  
“ wastel, etc.” And by what follows  
in the same statute concerning weights,  
it should also seem that those weights,  
tho’ commonly taken to have been the  
Troy weights, were not really so, but  
the money weights. “ By consent of  
“ the whole realm of England the  
“ king’s measure was made, that is  
“ to say, that an English pennie, which  
“ is called a sterling, round without  
“ clipping, shall weigh xxxii graines  
“ of wheate dry in the midst of  
“ the eare; and xx pence make an  
“ ounce, and xii ounces make a  
“ pound,” etc. For otherwise the  
penny weight here described, could  
never be, as the statute plainly im-  
plies, the true weight of the English  
coined pennie.

The weight of the Tower was also  
known in France, where it was called  
the Rochel or the English weight, con-  
cerning which I shall here transcribe  
a short quotation made by Du Fresne,  
in his Latin glossary upon the word  
MARCA, from what he calls a *Re-  
gestum cameræ computor. Paris.* “ Ou  
“ royaume souloit avoir iv marcs :  
“ c’est assavoir le marc de Troyes, qui  
“ poise xiv sols, ii den. Esterlins de  
“ poix - - - - -  
“ le marc de la Rochelle, dit d’Angle-  
“ terre, qui poise xiii s. iv den. Ester-  
“ lins de poix.” In this passage I  
observe two particulars; first, that

the *Denier Esterlin* is therein confi-  
dered as the proper or natural part of  
the English or Rochel marc; and se-  
condly, that the proportion of this  
marc to that of Troyes, which is here  
supposed to be that of 16 to 17; tho’  
not strictly the same as the proportion  
of the Tower to the Troy weight laid  
down in the table, yet differs as little  
from it as can well be expected from  
accounts taken with different stand-  
ards, in different countries, at dif-  
ferent times, and in ages when the  
standards of weights and measures,  
were neither made nor preserved with  
the same care they have since been.  
The proportion mentioned in the Ta-  
ble, being that of 15 to 16, is agreeable  
to a *Verdict relating to the coinage* of the  
30 Oct. 18 Hen. VIII. remaining in  
the receipt of the Exchequer at West-  
minster, in which are the following  
words. “ And whereas heretofore  
“ the marchaunte paid for coyname  
“ of every pounce Towre of fyne  
“ gold, weighing xi oz. quarter Troye,  
“ ii s. vi d. Nowe it is determyned  
“ by the king’s highness, and his said  
“ councelle, that the foresaid Pounce  
“ Towre, shall be no more used and  
“ occupied, but al maner of golde  
“ and sylver shall be wayed by the  
“ pounce Troye, which maketh xii oz.  
“ Troye, which exceedith the pounce  
“ Towre in weight iii quarters of the  
“ oz.” From hence it follows that  
the weight of the Tower pound was  
5400 Troy grains, and that of the  
ounce or the twelfth part thereof 450  
like grains. The weight of the Ro-  
chel or English ounce, as taken from  
the marc abovementioned, will be  
found 451.76 Troy grains, if the cor-  
responding

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

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whereas the present standard of England, of eleven ounces two penny-weight fine, to eighteen penny-weight of allay, is called, in the oldest accounts of the mint extant, the Old Standard, or the standard of the Old Sterlings; it is most probable that these pennies were of that standard, and that the pound of the Tower of such standard silver, was then cut into 240 of these pennies. Whence the weight of the pennie will be found 22 Troy grains and a half, and the intrinsic value of twenty shillings, or of 240 such pennies of full weight, was the same as the value of 58 shillings and one pennie half pennie of our present coined money.

WILL. I.  
1066.  
WILL. II.  
1087.

THE PENNIES of the first Henry were like those of his father and brother, to which, as the historians very particularly tell us, he added HALF PENNIES also, and those round like his pennies. Yet have none of these last, that I know of, been preserved to our time; and very few were in all probability coined, since even the memory of them seems to have been lost within a few years. The pennies I have seen, and which I take to have been certainly of this king, were of very barbarous work, and represented him full-faced, with an annulet or eylet-hole on each side of his head.

HENRY I.  
1100.

KING Stephen's PENNIES were of the same value as those of his predecessors, and of various types. There are also some coined at York, with the name EVSTACIVS, probably for Eustace the king's son; and I have seen one in the collection of the right honourable the earl of Pembroke, that hath the king's name only on the reverse, and on the fore-side a profile head with a crozier, and + HEN . . . VS. EPC. which I suppose to be the head of Henry, bishop of Winchester, base brother to the king.

STEPHEN.  
1135.

responding marc of Troyes is supposed exactly to coincide with the English Troy weight: and the present weight of the *Colonia* ounce, as stated by Joh. Gasp. Eifenschmid,

from his own experiments, in his tract *De ponderibus et mensuris*, is 550 Paris grains and a quarter, which make, when reduced, 451.38 Troy grains.

B

THE

HEN. II. THE PENNIES of the second Henry were the same in  
1154. value as the foregoing, and they were also of different forms; such a regularity in this particular, as afterwards took place, not being yet established in the mints.

RICH. I. As king Richard the first reigned almost ten years, it  
1189. can hardly be doubted but he must have coined some money in that time, and that it was of the same sort and value as that of his predecessors and of his immediate successor. It has not however been my fortune either to see any of his pennies, or to receive any account of one I could depend upon: but it is very reasonable to think that the king's long absence out of England, his expedition to the Holy Land, his captivity, and the large sums paid abroad for his ransom\*, together with his wars in France after his release, must have occasioned great scarcity of money at home, and small coinages during all the time of his reign.

JOHN PENNIES, HALF-PENNIES, and FARTHING, were coined  
1199. by king John in Ireland, where it should seem his principal mint was. They represent his head in a triangle, and are more regular than the coins of his predecessors. I have also seen a few of another sort, with a kind of double cross between four annulets on the reverse; and some of these may have been of his English money, but were all so much worn and defaced, that little more than his name was to be made out. One of these that is in the collection of my worthy friend James West, Esq; has only IOHANNES DO.. round the head, and seems on that account to have been coined before John came to the crown, when he was usually styled lord of Ireland and duke of Cornwall.

\* King Richard's ransom to the emperor, was settled at 150000 marcs of silver, after the *Colonia* weight; and of these, 100000, being all he could then get raised, were carried over by the queen mother in person, and at once paid down before he could obtain his liberty. An immense sum for that age, amounting to no less than 194000 *l.* sterling of our present silver money.

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

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KING Henry the third coined PENNIES, HALF-PENNIES, and FARTHINGs, according to the records of his sixth year. Yet is it probable that few only of the lesser pieces were struck: I have never met with any, and I should even think they were discontinued several years before his death, or his son and successor king Edward the first could hardly have been so generally taken for the first of our princes, that added half-pennies and farthings to his coin.

HEN. III.  
1216.

THERE was a very great recoinage in the 32<sup>d</sup> year of this king's reign, when the type of his pennies was also somewhat altered, the double cross on the reverse being carried through the limb where the letters are, and almost to the edge of the piece; which alteration being expressly described by Matthew Paris, who lived at the time, I think all the pieces answering to it must have been minted

1248.

after that date. All these pennies have REX III. OR REX TERCI. upon them, and have therefore universally been ascribed to this king: but I must, for the foregoing reason, ascribe to him also all those others, usually given to king Henry the second, which have a good resemblance of these, but on which the double cross does not break into the legend, and which I therefore look upon as the moneys of king Henry the third, coined before his 32<sup>d</sup> year. In this opinion I am also confirmed, by the curious remarks of my learned friend, the reverend Mr. North, on the names of the moneyers of this king in particular.

*pro restitutione Censorum 1730  
Dunelm. Pat 37 Hen 3. m. 7*

THE PENNIES, HALF-PENNIES, and FARTHINGs of Edward the first are all common, but the smaller pieces are usually said to have been first coined in his seventh year, when he made a great reformation in the money, and several new regulations for the better trying and preserving of his coin. It was now made more uniform than it had yet been, the names of the several moneyers were omitted, and only the name of the town or city where coined, preserved on the reverse. I have my self only seen

EDW. I.  
1272.  
1279.

EDW. I. the name of one moneyer, ROBERT DE HADLEIE, upon  
 1279. any of the coins of this reign: and from hence I should  
 be apt to conclude, that either the alterations in the type  
 of the money took place earlier than is generally said, or  
 that the great coinages in the time of Henry the third,  
 had sufficiently supplied the first years of king Edward's  
 reign.

1301. It appears that, in his 28<sup>th</sup> year, an indented trial-piece  
 of the goodness of Old Standard was lodged in the Exche-  
 quer, and that every pound weight of the Tower of such  
 silver was then to be shorn at 20 s. and 3 d. whereby the  
 weight of the pennie, was to be somewhat less than 22 Troy  
 grains and a quarter; and 240 such pennies of full weight,  
 making twenty shillings, or a pound sterling in tale, were  
 to contain as much silver, as in our present coin is of the  
 value of 57 s. and 5 d. nearly.

There is a large piece represented in Speed, and com-  
 monly called the GROAT of this king: I have weighed I  
 think eight of these pieces, which are now rare, and I  
 have found them to weigh from 80 to 85 Troy grains. If  
 they are really groats, and of Edward the first, their stand-  
 ard weight should be about 89: but I must also take no-  
 tice that, besides these, I have met with three others that  
 have weighed 92, 116, and 138 grains respectively. I  
 have not found such a disagreement in any other English  
 coins, and am therefore quite uncertain what to think of  
 these. If the eight first mentioned, and which seem to con-  
 spire to a weight, shall be judged groats, I will only ob-  
 serve they must have been coined before the 18<sup>th</sup> of Edward  
 the third, when the weight of the pennie was brought  
 down nearly to 20 grains: and indeed their whole appear-  
 ance, with the title of DVX AQVT. agrees to make them  
 at least as old as that prince, whilst the inscription CIVI.  
 LONDONIA, in their inner circle, seems to ascertain them  
 for English coins.

THE

*Minera Argenti in terra Regis in Hybernia nuper inventa, pro ead operiend*  
*Pat. 4 Ed. 1. m. 10.*

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

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THE general inscription round the head on the pennies and half-pennies of king Edward the first was, + EDW. R. ANGL. DNS. HYB. This addition of lord of Ireland, had not been used in the style of any of his predecessors, but was never omitted either upon any of the coins of this king, except his farthings, or upon any of the like pieces supposed to have been minted by his son king Edward the second. The same is also found upon all the groats and upon many of the lesser pieces of king Edward the third; but afterwards it was left out, and Ireland was no more mentioned upon the silver coin, till king Henry the eighth, who had then just assumed that title, styled himself king of Ireland, upon the moneys struck in his 34<sup>th</sup> year.

EDW. I.  
1301.

ALL these pennies, *etc.* presented the king's head full faced, and crowned with an open crown *fleurie*, consisting of three *fleurs de lis*, with two rays or lesser flowers not rising so high as the others placed between them; and the same crown is to be seen upon the coins of all our succeeding kings, till Henry the seventh introduced the close or arched crown in its stead. It may also be observed, that, during all this period, there does not appear to have been so much as an attempt to preserve any similitude of the several kings, in the impressions of their heads. They are all alike, and even those that are represented, on their broad seals and monuments, as wearing beards, do nevertheless appear smooth faced upon their coins: and altho' Henry the sixth became king when only nine months old, and reigned above eight and thirty years, yet can no difference be observed in his countenance, by which his first moneys and his last may be distinguished from each other\*.

THE

\* However odd this particular entirely chargeable on the want of skill, in the several workmen that en-

C

graved

EDW. I.  
1301.

THE type of the reverse of king Edward's money was also continued by all his successors, till Henry the seventh brought in the impress of the royal arms; which type was only a plain cross, extending it self almost to the edge of the piece, and dividing the letter'd limb whereon the name of the place of mintage was, together with three globules or pellets placed in each of the quarters, between the limb and the arms of the cross.

EDW. II.  
1307.

KING Edward the second's PENNIES, HALF-PENNIES, and FARTHINGs, were the same as those of the king his father, and are not with certainty to be distinguished from them. The common opinion, which gives those pieces with EDW. to the first Edward, and all those with EDWA. or EDWAR. to the second, is at most but a probable conjecture; and should it be allowed that all those of the first sort, which are by far the most plentiful, were really struck by the first king of the name, who certainly coined a great deal more money than his son, we should still be at a loss for arguments to prove, that he did not coin some of the others also: to which I shall only add that I have seen some of these pennies of the last sort, upon which the letters were braced into one another, much like those

graved these coins, some of which are in other respects not ill executed. It should therefore seem that some custom of those ages required the king to be always represented on his money, as in the prime and vigour of his years, and that this effigies of him was to be consider'd, rather as his political than as his natural likeness. And I remember that upon my mentioning this circumstance, several years since, to our late eminent antiquary, John Anstis Esq; Garter principal king at arms, he was pleased to tell me he had himself taken notice of somewhat very like it, in the sepulchral monuments of those times, upon which even children deceased in their infancy,

were nevertheless often represented, as perfect men and women, in the flower and strength of their age: a very remarkable instance of which is still to be seen in the chappel of Saint Edmond within the Abbey-Church of Westminster, where, upon a monument erected for William of Windsor and Blanch of the Tower, two children of king Edward the third, that died in their earliest childhood, they are both notwithstanding carved in alabaster, he like a knight in robes and full dress with his sword buckled on, and she in a strait-bodied gown and head attire, agreeable to the fashion of the age.

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

II

on the pennies of king Henry the third, and which therefore seem to have been minted but little after his time. EDW. II.  
1307.

I have also seen a small thick piece, probably struck with a pennie die at Canterbury, + EDWAR. R. ANGL. DNS. HYB. weight 65 grains: and this, if designedly adjusted to a weight, must have been a sort of proof for a three-pennie piece, in the time of the first or second Edward.

THE first PENNIES, HALF-PENNIES, and FARTHINGS of king Edward the third were the same as those coined by his grandfather and his father, and we know of no alteration that he made in the coin, till his 18<sup>th</sup> year, when 22 s. 2 d. and his 20<sup>th</sup> year, when 22 s. 6 d. were ordered to be coined out of the pound Tower of Old Sterling silver; by which last regulation the weight of the pennie was brought down to 20 Troy grains, and the pound sterling, or 240 such pennies of full weight, contained as much silver as is now coined into 51 s. and 8 d. EDW. III.  
1226, enacted that all Silver  
shall be coined according to the old  
Sterling in poise & alloy.  
1346.

IN the 27<sup>th</sup> year of this king were first coined GROSSES or GROATS, running for four pennies each, with HALF GROSSES, and STERLINGS or PENNIES; seventy-five of these grosses being coined out of the pound Tower: from whence the weight of the grosse appears to have been 72 Troy grains, and the silver contained in twenty shillings, or in 60 such grosses of full weight, was the same in quantity, as what is now contained in 46 s. and 6 d. of our present money. 1353.

THESE grosses and half grosses resembled the other coins, except that the king's head was surrounded with a sort of double tressure, composed of several arches with small flowers at their interior angles; which ornament has generally but improperly been called a rose, and continued to be placed on the larger pieces of all the succeeding princes, till Henry the seventh made the alterations hereafter mentioned in the form of his money. There was besides added to the reverses of these pieces an exterior limb,

EDW. III. 1353. beyond that containing the place of mintage, which was still divided by the plain cross, and upon which was this legend, used also by his successors, POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTOR. REM. MEVM.

\* THIS king first added to his style the title of king of France, constantly used by all our princes ever since, and it is generally seen both upon his groats and half groats, but not upon his pennies and smaller pieces. The addition also of *Dei Gratia* to the king's name, which, tho' used upon the seals from the time of William the second, had not yet appeared upon the money, was now first inscribed on the groats, but not on the half groats till the following reign, after which it was never omitted on any pieces of that size. The common legend of these groats of Edward the third was, + EDWARD. D. G. REX. ANGL. Z. FRANC. D. HYB. tho' I have seen others with, + EDWARD. DEI. G. REX. ANGL. DNS. HYB. Z. AQT. which last I cannot however think to have been coined before he took the title of France, because their weight is no greater than what was required by the above mentioned indenture of his 27<sup>th</sup> year; whereas he first took the title in his 14<sup>th</sup> year, and that heavier money was directed to be coined several years after.

1356. IT may be noted, that although half-pennies and farthings were omitted in this indenture of the 27<sup>th</sup> year; HALF-STERLINGS were also mentioned in another of the 30<sup>th</sup> year.

RICH. II. 1377. KING Richard the second coined GROSSES, HALF GROSSES, STERLINGS, and HALF STERLINGS, together with FARTHINGs also; for such I take some very small pieces still remaining to have certainly been, though not mentioned in the indenture I have seen of this king. The legend of his groats was, + RICARD. DI. GRA. REX. ANGL. Z. FRANCIE. he also placed the title of France upon his pennies, but this was again omitted by his successors, upon their pieces of that denomination.

HENRY

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HENRY the fourth, coined GROSSES, HALF GROSSES, HEN. IV. STERLINGS, and HALF STERLINGS or MAILES; the same 1399. as those of his predecessor; as also FARTHINGS: but I have never yet seen any of these pieces, that I could depend upon. They would, the larger coins especially, be immediately distinguished by their weight, from those of the two succeeding kings of the same name: but silver was at this time exceedingly scarce, and the coinages therefore in all probability very small. By an Act of Parliament in his 3<sup>d</sup> year, it was ordered, “ that one third part  
“ of the money of silver that should be brought to the  
“ bullion should be made into half-pennies and farthings:” and by another Act in his 13<sup>th</sup> year, it was directed, “ that by reason of the great scarcity of money at that  
“ time in the realm of England, the pound Tower might  
“ from the feast of Easter then next following be coined  
“ into thirty shillings by tale.” By which regulation the weight of the groat was brought down to 60 Troy grains, and the pound sterling, consisting of 60 such groats, was 1412. to contain so much silver only, as in our present coined money is of the value of 38 s. and 9 d.

THIS new money being of the same weight as that of the two following reigns, is probably so blended amongst it, as not to be now distinguished: nor are we indeed certain, that we rightly know the coins of Henry the fifth and Henry the sixth from each other. Some of those pieces have an annulet on each side of the head, with another conjoining the three pellets in two of the quarters of the reverse, and a like annulet most commonly after the first word POSVI. in the legend of the same side of the larger pieces. These are usually and not without some reasons assigned to Henry the fifth, as the others have generally been to Henry the fourth: but they must now also from their weight be ascribed with good certainty either to

D

the

HEN. IV. the fifth or sixth of those princes, and were most probably  
1412. coined by the last; as the pieces are still very common, and he reigned much longer than the king his father.

HEN. V. KING Henry the fifth, and the sixth, coined GROSSES,  
1412. HALF GROSSES, STERLINGS, MAILES, and FARTHINGS;  
HEN. VI. the same as the last of king Henry the fourth: the grossies  
1422. weighing, as has been said, 60 Troy grains each.

I HAVE seen some pieces not broader than the pennies of the first Edwards, with + HENRICUS. REX. ANGL. coined at Calais, and weighing, tho' something worn, about 58 grains: these I should also take to have been groats of Henry the sixth. Besides which I have seen another thick piece, coined likewise at Calais, exactly resembling one of the common groats above assigned to this king, but weighing 236 grains; and this seems to have been a proof for a quadruple groat, whose standard weight should have been 240. It is a very remarkable coin, and belongs to the dean of the arches, the worshipful Dr. Bettsworth.

EDW. IV. KING Edward the fourth struck the SAME PIECES, and  
1460. of the same weights, until his fourth year; when he made  
1464. his GROATS, HALF GROATS, STERLINGS, HALF STERLINGS, and FARTHINGS, lighter than the foregoing: the pound of the Tower being now cut into thirty seven shillings and six pennies by tale; whereby the weight of the groat was yet farther diminished to 48 Troy grains, and the quantity of silver contained in the pound sterling, or in 60 of these groats of full weight, was only so much, as is of the intrinsic value of 31 shillings, in our present coined money.

HEN. VI. KING Henry the sixth about the end of the year 1470,  
1470. which was the 49<sup>th</sup> from the beginning of his reign, recovered his authority for a short time: during which he made indentures with the masters of his mint, for the coining of silver money lighter than his former, and the same as  
the

the last mentioned of king Edward the fourth. And HEN. VI. 1470.  
 as it is most probable, that there was then such money  
 actually coined, I should take some Henry groats I have  
 seen with an open crown, agreeable to this weight, and  
 marked with a *fleur de lis*, to have been pieces minted  
 in consequence of this indenture. Their weight shews  
 them plainly to have been later than the 4<sup>th</sup> year of  
 king Edward; and I am inclined to believe them this  
 king's, from their mint-mark: as I take some others of the  
 like weight but marked with a rose, to have been king  
 Henry the seventh's, and coined before he exchanged the  
 open for the arched crown.

KING Edward the fourth, after his restoration, coined EDW. IV. 1471.  
 the same moneys as before to his death. There was also a  
 master and worker of the mint appointed in the name of  
 king Edward the fifth, but it is not probable that any new  
 money was coined in his time. I have once seen of Ed-  
 ward the fourth, as I should judge from the appearance,  
 a small thick piece, like some of those above ascribed to  
 Henry the sixth: it was coined at York and weighed  
 76 grains; but being only a single piece, was possibly no  
 other than a proof, and therefore not adjusted to any re-  
 gular weight.

THE GROATS, HALF GROATS, STERLINGS, HALF RICH. III. 1483.  
 STERLINGS, and FARTHINGs of Richard the third, were  
 the same as the last of the king his brother: and all that  
 I have seen have been marked either with a rose or a boar's  
 head.

KING Henry the seventh coined the SAME PIECES and HEN. VII. 1485.  
 of the same weights, as the last mentioned of king  
 Edward the fourth, and king Richard the third. He first  
 placed upon his money the arched crown, or the im-  
 perial crown, as it is now commonly called, with a  
 globe and cross on the arch, much like that used by our  
 princes

*Licentia Regis pro Obolis fab-  
 ricandis apud Dunelm  
 dat 13 Edw 4. 21. m. 2.*  
*Epis. Dunelm pro Sterlings  
 fabricandis 2. Ric 3  
 Symonis Federici 112. p. 252.*

HEN. VII.  
1485.

princes at this day : and by this particular his coins are readily distinguished from those of all his predecessors. This money has however been generally ascribed to king Henry the sixth ; but besides that several of the mint marks to be found upon it, are either badges used by king Henry the seventh, or the supporters of his royal arms, the weight does ascertain it to be his beyond all doubt, none of these groats exceeding the weight of 48 grains, which is the true standard weight of his indentures. This king did also about the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> year of his reign make

1504.

a great alteration in the form of his coin, upon which his head was now represented crowned, but in profile, and with a good resemblance of his other pictures : whereas the heads of all our former kings had constantly been drawn in front upon their money, ever since the time of king John. He besides omitted the double tressure surrounding the head upon the former groats and half groats, added the number VII almost constantly to his style, and caused the royal arms of France and England quarterly, to be placed in a plain escutcheon upon the cross on the reverse of the several pieces ; instead of the old devise of the pellets, which was now left off, as well as the inner circle with the name of the place of mintage on the same side. The number of these places seems also to have been greatly reduced in this reign ; groats were, I believe, coined no where but in London, though half groats were still in good plenty struck at Canterbury, York, and Durham. Upon some of these the name of the city was still preserved, instead of the ordinary motto on the reverse ; but even those pieces whereon that was omitted, may yet be easily distinguished by the initial letters usually inscribed upon them, of the names of the archbishops and bishops of those several sees, who had from time immemorial claimed and exercised a power of coinage. Together

*Wm. Sheward in. 1105. Camb.  
Moneta infra. 20. 4. 1.  
magis duri. 4. 4. 1.  
1485. an. 14. 1. 1. 1.  
1485. an. 14. 1. 1. 1.  
1485. an. 14. 1. 1. 1.*

*Gold coined. 1485. 1485. 1485.  
1485. 1485. 1485.  
1485. 1485. 1485.*

*Silver 1485. 1485. 1485.  
1485. 1485. 1485.  
1485. 1485. 1485.*

*1485. 1485. 1485.  
1485. 1485. 1485.*

gether with these profile or half faced groats, or very soon after, were coined for the first time in England \*. HEN. VII.  
1504.

SHILLINGS, running for twelve pennies each: they were a large and fair coin, exactly resembling the groats, but larger, and weigh'd in proportion to their value each 144 Troy grains. Some of these want the number after the king's name, others have VII. and a third sort the word SEPTIM'. upon them: they are all rare, and we are told that there were only a few of them coined.

I have seen among the English coins, preserved in the university library of Cambridge, a very remarkable piece, much like the full faced groats of this king, but larger and weighing about five times as much: this seems to have been a tryal for a twenty pennie piece, and before the profile money was introduced. *This I have seen & could discern it to a forgery by soldering pieces together.*

\* The crown upon most of these coins, seems only to consist of one single arch, added to the old crown fleurie above described and represented upon all our money from the time of king Edward the first; tho' upon some few there appear two lesser arches besides, crossing and supporting this as the principal: and the like may be observed in other monuments of this king. Such crowns are also seen upon the great seals of Edward the fourth and Richard the third, but not upon that of Henry the sixth. The same crown appears also on the money of king Henry the eighth, except that between the flowers on the diadem crosses of the same height are alternately inserted, and this has continued to be the form of the diadem to this day: but the number of the arches over it supporting the mound, do not seem to have been constantly limited as they now are, to two intersecting each other at right angles, till much

later. The crowns on most of the following coins plainly exhibit two lesser arches as strengthening the one principal arch above described; and such is very distinctly that crown so beautifully graved by Simon, on the reverse of Cromwell's five shilling piece; and a like crown is also represented as the English Imperial crown by Mr. Selden in his *Titles of Honour*, part I. ch. 8. with this only difference, that it there seems to have two principal and two lesser arches. There are indeed pictures of king James the first and king Charles the first, in which crowns are seen more resembling those now in use, with two like and equal arches, yet in some particulars still differing from them. All the crowns now in the Jewel Office are modern, the old ones having been destroyed or lost during the rebellion, and these only made in remembrance of them, since the restoration of king Charles the second.

HEN. VII.  
1504.

I do not remember to have seen the profile head of this king upon any piece less than a half groat: and I am thence apt to conclude, there was not yet any alteration made in the general type of the lesser money, but that it still continued both in this reign and the following to be coined of the same form as before, and with the old devise of the pellets on the reverse; of which particular I shall have some further occasion to take notice, in speaking of the coins of the succeeding king.

It was also about this time, as I apprehend, that those pennies were first coined at York and Durham, that have the king's figure at full length sitting in his throne, with the crown, scepter, and orb; and his royal arms with the place of mintage on the reverse: concerning which Mr. Thoresby has justly observed that they are of two sorts, some having the king's usual style tho' without the number on the right side, and others having instead of it H. D. G. ROSA. SIE. SPIA. He takes the first only to have been struck by this king, and the others by king Henry the eighth: these first he had constantly found the heavier, and sufficiently approaching to the weight of twelve grains each, whereas he had found none of the latter to weigh more than nine grains and a half. The same thing has also succeeded with my self, I have seen some of these pennies of the first sort that wanted scarce any thing of the weight of twelve grains, and the heaviest I have met with of the other has not weighed full ten and a half. The standard weight of the English pennie was twelve grains, during all the time of king Henry the seventh, and till king Henry the eighth reduced it by his first alteration to ten grains and two thirds. To these two periods therefore must these two sorts of pennies be with good certainty referred: and it may yet be further observed concerning them, that, like the half groats last mentioned, they have also impressed upon them for the most part the

the signatures of the several archbishops and bishops of York and Durham, in whose times they were respectively minted. HEN. VII.  
1504.

WE may further in this place take notice of a very uncommon and singular coin, charged with the royal arms, but without a name. The arms are surmounted with an arched crown, and placed between a *fleur de lis*, and a rose, legend, DOMINE. SALVVM. FAC. REGEM: on the other side is a *fleur de lis* and a lion of England, an arched crown between them above, and a rose below, with this inscription, MANI. TECKEL. PHARES. 1494. an English lion also for a mint mark. It is by the make and size a French gros, and is supposed to have been coined by the Dukes of Burgundy for Perkin Warbeck, when he set out to invade England in that same year 1494.

THE first silver coins of king Henry the eighth, were HEN. VIII,  
1509. GROATS and HALF GROATS, of the same weight and form as the last pieces of those denominations coined by the king his father. They have the number VIII. after the name, without which they could not be known at this time, since all that I have ever seen, have been distinctly struck with dies made from the punchcons of the preceding king: and of this sort I therefore suppose that groat to have been, which archbishop Sharp mentions out of his collection, which he tells us “weighed five grains more than the weight he had just given from the indenture,” which consequently weighed in all near 48 grains, and did not sensibly fall short of the full standard weight of Henry the seventh’s groats. From this particular of the head I should at first have thought this money continued no longer than till punchcons with the likeness of the new king could be got ready. But some half groats of this sort coined at York, and upon which the keys and a cardinal’s hat are to be seen under the royal arms, make it plain they could not at the soonest have  
E 2 been

HEN. VIII. been minted, earlier than archbishop Bainbrigg's promotion to the purple in 1511, if indeed they were earlier than Wolsey's promotion to the same in 1515. And as these half groats, of which I have seen and weighed a pretty many, have all proved heavier than those of the following sort, I am thereby constrained to believe, that the first alteration made by king Henry the eighth in the weight of his coin, was really later than is commonly thought, and that it was not indeed made till several years after he came to the crown. To all which I must further add the express testimonies of Richard Grafton and John Stow in their *Chronicles*, and of the last in his *Survey of London* also, who fix this alteration as late as the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the king's reign, and give us the very date of the proclamation, by which the price of silver was at that time raised from 3 s. and 4 d. to 3 s. and 9 d. the ounce Troy.

1509.  
1526.

I should have been glad to have seen the indenture it self, quoted by Mr. Lowndes, and before by archbishop Williams in his collections, as of the first year of this king, and in which the lighter moneys to be next spoken of are mentioned: but I have not yet been able to find that record. I had difficulties about it when I formerly published the *Table of Gold Coins*, and particularly by reason of the distinct mention of Troy weight in it; whereas the Tower weight does not appear to have been taken away before the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the king's reign. On this account I therein dated the gold coins spoken of in this indenture only in that 18<sup>th</sup> year: and tho' I have indeed seen some of those pieces, that represented the king with a more youthful countenance than might have been expected, I have yet been convinced by other arguments, that even those had been coined considerably after that date. I do not therefore see any reason to alter my mind in that particular, but am still persuaded that the 18<sup>th</sup> year

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

21

year of the king's reign, was the true time when his new moneys both of gold and silver were first minted: and that if there were any other indentures concerning the same coins, besides that already so often mentioned, and which I take to have been truly not of the first but of the twenty-first year of his reign, they were not however older than the eighteenth.

HEN. VIII.  
1526.

By this indenture it was directed that the pound weight Troy of Old Standard silver should be coined into 45 shillings by tale, namely into GROATS, HALF-GROATS, PENNIES, HALFPENNIES, and FARTHINGS: whereby the weight of the groat was brought down to 42 Troy grains and two thirds, and the fine silver to be contained in the pound sterling, or in 60 such groats of full weight, was so much only as is now contained in 27 s. and 6 d. 3 q. of our present coin.

It is very true that these new coins are much more plentiful than the former, but it is also to be noted that money of all sorts is said to have been very scarce before the new coins were struck, which scarcity was made the pretence for the lessening of their weights: and it is also probable that the great coinages in the last years of king Henry the seventh, together with the dispersion of the immense treasures he had hoarded up, must have lessened the occasions of coinage, during the first years of his son. Again whereas it may justly seem strange, that for above seventeen whole years no dies should have been sunk but with the old puncheons, or with others that were exactly like them; it should also be remember'd that a similitude of the king's person was yet a new thing upon the coin, and what had not been attempted above five years before the decease of the last king: from whence we may conclude that the inscribing the style of the new king about the same head already used for the former, did not

F

then

HEN. VIII. then carry with it such an absurdity as a like practice would  
1526. do in the present age.

THE groats and half groats of this sort had the king's head in profile like the foregoing, but with a youthful face, well graved, and resembling the other representations of his person. There were also some that had CIVITAS. EBORACI. instead of the common motto on their reverses, and these had besides a cardinal's hat under the royal arms, and for the most part the letters T. W. for Thomas Wolsey, on either hand. These groats with the cardinal's name and hat were, I believe, the only pieces of that size coined at this time out of the king's own mint, and in the coining such pieces it is possible that the cardinal exceeded his charter, and thereby gave some room to the complaint, in <sup>the</sup> articles against him when he fell into disgrace\*. His hat might also as a foreign ornament have given some offence, but the mitre had been already placed in the same manner upon some of the pennies of the bishops of Durham: and in stamping of his name on the half groats, he did no more than had been practised by his predecessor archbishop Bainbrigg, and was afterwards continued by his immediate successor archbishop Lee. The like half groats are also very commonly found with CIVITAS. CANTOR. and the respective letters W. A. and T. C. for *Wilhelmus Archiepiscopus* and *Thomas Cantuariensis*, the names of the archbishops Warham and Cranmer, who sat successively in the see of Canterbury.

\* The 40<sup>th</sup> article exhibited against the cardinal and here referred to, is quoted by my lord Coke in his *Institutes*, l. iv. c. 8. in these words. "Also the said lord cardinal, of his further pompous and presumptuous mind, hath enterprized to joyn and  
" imprint the cardinal's hat under  
" your arms in your coin of groats  
" made at your city of York, which  
" like deed hath not been seen to  
" have been done by any subject  
" within your realm before this  
" time."

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

23

I do not know that there were at this time any ~~other~~ other pennies than of the two last sorts abovementioned, either with a full face and like the old coins, or with the king sitting on his throne: of which last there are still good plenty, that were coined at York and Durham, and with the signatures of the several prelates of those churches; particularly with cardinal Wolsey's hat and the initials of his name. There are also some of the pennies coined at Durham that have the letters D. S. upon them, which I read *Dunelmensis sedes*: and I suppose these to have been struck whilst that see remained vacant from 1505, to 1507, in the foregoing reign.

HEN. VIII.  
1526.

MR. Thoresby mentions a very odd piece that he had, which was like one of these Durham pennies and little broader, but that weighed two grains more than the strict standard of a groat. This piece I have not seen, but should suspect it was no other than an irregular proof made with the pennie die: and which from the letters C. D. upon it, should have been struck whilst Cuthbert Tunstall was the bishop. I have indeed seen a groat coined at London with the king on his throne, but this tho' very singular, was proportionably broader than the pennies, and weighed its true standard weight of somewhat less than three and forty grains.

THE half-pennies and farthings of this period I can give no account of, as having seen no pieces I could know to have been such, tho' by an *Act of Parliament* of the fourteenth and fifteenth of the king it was enacted, "That  
" all such coiners as should coin and make any money at  
" any mint within his realm of England, should make  
" and coin of every hundred pounds worth of bullion  
" plate or silver, that they should strike into coin, as ma-  
" ny half-pence as should amount to the sum of ten  
" marks sterling; and as many farthings as amount to the  
" sum of five marks sterling." And in the same *Act* it

HEN. VIII. was further provided, that “ forasmuch as at that present  
 1526. “ time farthings and half-pence were stricken all with one  
 “ coin, so that the common people of the realm many  
 “ times took those that were farthings for half-pence: All  
 “ such farthings, that from thenceforth should be made  
 “ within this realm, should have upon the one side the  
 “ print of the portcolice, and upon the other side thereof  
 “ the print of the rose with a cross.” Yet have I never  
 seen any pieces myself that could answer this plain de-  
 scription, nor indeed any others I could take for farthings  
 after this time: tho’ such continued to be mentioned in the  
 indentures made with the masters and workers of the  
 mint, as late at the least as the last year of king Edward  
 the sixth.

*One in Dr. Jifford's collection*

I have seen of king Henry two different groats struck  
 at Tournay in Flanders: the first is without his head  
 and carries the date of the year 1513, when he took  
 that place; the other, which is the more common, is with  
 his head and like his English coin\*, except that as well  
 on this as on the other, France is placed in the king’s  
 style before England, and that there is no motto but  
 CIVITAS. TORNACI. upon the reverse. Tournay was  
 again surrendered by treaty in 1519.

HITHERTO no money had been allowed to be coined in  
 England but of the Old Standard, as it is still called, of  
 eleven ounces two penny-weight fine, to eighteen penny-  
 weight of allay. But baser silver having been introduced

\* The head upon this groat is  
 plainly that of king Henry the se-  
 venth: whence there arises a new ar-  
 gument, that the first money of king  
 Henry the eighth above spoken of,  
 was still the money in use in 1513.  
 For surely had the new money, upon  
 which the king’s likeness was well  
 expressed, been already coined in

England, that and not the other would  
 have been made the pattern of this  
 money coined on a sort of triumphant  
 occasion abroad. It may also be noted  
 that upon this groat the number after  
 the king’s name is omitted, yet is it  
 certainly this king’s, as Tournay was  
 never in his father’s hands.

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

25

towards the latter end of this reign, the standard will be henceforward express'd in the table after the common manner; that is, by the ounces and penny-weights such new standards were worse than the Old Standard, in the pound weight Troy. Now it appears by the indentures that there were coined,

HEN. VIII.

1526.

*Anno Regni 34.* Of silver 1 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard, GROATS, HALF GROATS, PENNIES, HALF PENNIES, and FARTHINGS, as also TESTONS going for twelve pennies each: and 48 such testons were coined out of the pound weight Troy. Whence the weight of each teston comes out 120 Troy grains, and twenty such testons of full weight were to contain as much fine silver, as is now nearly contained in 23 s. and 3 d. 1 q. of our present money.

1542;

THE groats and half groats of this sort have the king's head almost full faced, whereas he was represented in profile upon the former: and they have commonly been called gun hole pieces, from four annulets upon the extremities of the cross on their reverse. The pennies and half pennies have also the king's head with a full face and a good resemblance of his person, but still preserve the old device of the three pellets in each of the four quarters of the other side. The testons present his head in full front, and have on their reverse a full blown rose crowned, with the letters H and R also crowned on either hand, and the word ADIVTORIVM. instead of ADIVTOREM. in their legend.

THESE were the first coins upon which the king was stiled king of Ireland\*, which title he had assumed the year

\* Tho' the title of lord of Ireland was omitted, as hath been observed above, upon all the English moneys of silver, from the time of king Edward the third: it was however made use of by some of our kings upon their silver coined in that country. Thus upon a groat of Edward the fourth struck at Dublin, with the sun in glory on the reverse, the legend

HEN. VIII. year before; and which has never since been omitted by  
 1542. any of his successors to the present time. The whole inscription about the head upon the testons was, HENRIC'. VIII'. DI'. GRA'. AGL'. FRA'. Z. HIB'. REX. and the same is also, tho' differently abbreviated, to be seen both on the groats and half groats.

ALL this money I take to have been marked with a *fleur de lis*; and for this reason, among others, I apprehend a very curious piece, in the collection of my worthy friend Browne Willis, Esq; to have been a proof for a quadruple teston or a four shilling piece of this money: whose full weight should have been an ounce, and to which it sufficiently approaches\*.

1544. *Anno Regni 36.* By indentures of this year, the SAME PIECES were again to be coined, and of the same weight, but of silver 5 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard: so that twenty of these new testons were to contain no more

round the head was only † EDWARDVS. DEI. GRA. DS. HIBERN. And upon another that bears the royal arms on one side and three crowns on the reverse, which I take to have been king Henry the seventh's, the legend was on one side REX. ANGLI. FRANC. and on the other DOMINVS. HIBERNIE. without a name. King Henry the eighth also coined groats in Ireland, on one side of which are the royal arms crowned upon a cross, and on the other a crowned harp with a letter also crowned on either hand. These letters are either H. A. or H. I. or H. S. being the initial letters of his own name and those of two of his queens, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour, or those of his own name only. The pieces of this sort that I have seen with the letters A. or J. had for their legend HENRIC'. VIII. D'. G'. R'. AGL. — — FRANCE. DOMINVS. HIBERNIE. and those with the H. R. only were inscribed HENRIC', DI'.

GRACIA. ANGLIE. — — FRANCIE. ET. HIBERNIE. REX. as being coined after his taking the title of king of Ireland. There were probably also groats with H. K. during the time of the king's marriage with queen Catherine Howard. He was proclaimed king of Ireland, the 23<sup>d</sup> of January, 1541.

\* This piece has been published by the *Society of Antiquaries* in one of their plates. It bears on one side the king's figure crowned, full faced, and half bodied, with his sword in one hand and the orb in the other. HENRIC'. S. DEI. GRACIA. ANGL'. FRANCI'. Z. HIBERN'. REX. and on the reverse the royal shield crowned and supported by a lion and a dragon, ANGLICE. Z. HIBERNICE. ECCLESIE. SVPREMVM. CAPVT. mark a *fleur de lis*: it now weighs only 464 grains, but has lost considerably by wear, and a small hole bored through it that has taken away some of the silver.

silver

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

27

silver than is now contained in 13 s. and 11 d. halfpenny HEN. VIII.  
nearly, of our present coined money. 1544.

*Anno Regni 37.* The SAME PIECES were again indented to be coined and of the same weights, but of silver now 7 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the the Old Standard: whereby the value of twenty of these testons, or of the pound sterling in tale, was brought down to the worth only of 9 s. and 3 d. 3 q. of our present silver coin. And this was the state of the money at the time of the demise of king Henry the eighth, the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 1546. 1545.

THESE two last sorts of money, excepting their greater baseness, were a good deal like the money of the 34<sup>th</sup> year abovementioned: but most of the pieces that now remain are very much worn and defaced. They were coined in several places, and upon many of the pieces the name of the place of mintage was inscribed instead of the ordinary motto on the reverse: thus I have seen testons with CIVITAS. EBORACI. and very many of the groats, half groats, and pennies, with the several names of London, Canterbury, York, and Bristol upon them. The pennies have, like the groats and half groats, the king's head on one side, but with the legend HE. 8. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. and on the other the royal arms instead of the former devise of the pellets. I have not that I remember seen any of the half pennies of this money: and I suppose the several pieces coined out of London were however coined in some of the king's own mints, as nothing like the name or token of an archbishop or bishop appears upon any of them. I would also observe that from the inscription CIVITAS. BRISTOLIE. upon many of these coins, there arises a new proof that they are really here assigned to their right date; since Bristol was not made a city, by the erection of it into an episcopal see, before the month of June, 1542, and that consequently all those pieces were minted after that time.

EDW. VI.  
1546.

By the indentures made in the first and second years of the reign of king Edward the sixth, with the officers of the several mints in the Tower of London, and in Southwark, Canterbury, and York, silver money was to be coined of the same weight and goodness, as the last mentioned money of king Henry the eighth: and the pound weight Troy of bullion, four ounces in the pound fine, or 7 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard, was still to be cut into forty shillings by tale, in TESTONS, GROATS, HALF-GROATS, and pieces of lesser denominations.

OF this money I have seen groats, half groats, and pennies, agreeable to the indentures, but never any testons that I can recollect. The groats have on one side the king's head crowned and well represented in profile, with his style EDWARD'. 6. D'. G'. AG'. FRA'. ET. HIB'. REX. and on the other his royal arms on a plain cross, with the usual motto. The half groats and pennies are like the groats, but have the name of the place where minted instead of the common legend on their reverse; and the pennies have E. D. G. ROSA. SIE. SPIA. instead of the king's style round about his head.

THO' I have yet met with no testons answering to the weight of this money, I must nevertheless take notice of a piece dated in 1547, the first year of king Edward's reign; that is somewhat broader than a groat, and very much resembles in its make the shillings afterwards coined in 1549, 1550, and 1551, but weighs little more than 45 grains and is apparently of good silver. It bears on one side the king's head as just described, and on the reverse his royal arms in an oval shield garnished, with the letters E. R. on either hand: his style upon it is EDWARD'. VI. REX. AGL. FRA. HIB. &c. and the motto on the other side TIMOR. DOMINI: FONS. VITE. M. D. XL7. It is marked with a rose, and has, what is peculiar to several of the coins of this reign, the motto about the king's head

head and his titles round the arms on the other side. EDW. VI.

1547.

I apprehend this piece to have been minted for a shilling, notwithstanding the weight; and I have seen others equally light and nearly of the same make and seeming goodness: from whence I have been apt to conclude, that, during the continuance of the very base money, there was a liberty given to the masters and workers of the mints, either by commission or otherwise, to allow for the weight of their money by making it finer for beauty's sake. By this an easy solution will be given of some difficulties, that are otherwise very perplexing, about the weight of king Edward's silver coins: and indeed the whole appearance, not only of these pieces last mentioned, but of some others also coined in the following years, does render such a supposition highly probable. The king does in his own journal allude to this variety of standards\*, and expressly therein takes notice of some, not to be found in any of the indentures and commissions we have. And if to these

\* In this journal still preserved in the *Cotton Library*, written with the king's own hand, and printed at large by bishop Burnet in his *History of the Reformation*, is the following passage. "1551. 6 Sept. Deliberation concerning the coin. *Memo-randum*, that there were diverse standards, nine ounces fine, a few, eight ounces fine, as ill as four, because although that was fine, yet a shilling was reckoned for two shillings, six ounces, very many four ounces, many also three ounces, 130000 l. now of late." From which words I collect that in this reign besides the moneys of four ounces fine, six ounces fine, and three ounces fine, which are all that are mentioned in the indentures and commissions that we know of; there were also some others of eight ounces fine

and nine ounces fine; and that in the moneys of eight ounces fine in particular, one shilling was of no more value than another of only four ounces fine, as being of only half the weight, tho' it was as fine again. Now as the shillings of four ounces fine were by the *Table* of the weight of 120 grains each, the others of nine ounces fine and eight ounces fine, and which were of the same value, must have weighed 53 grains and one third, and 60 grains respectively. If therefore among the shillings we have of the first five years of this reign, there are really such found as agree sufficiently with these weights; we may reasonably conclude, that such shillings are of the standards above mentioned, and that they are some of the pieces to which the king alludes in the above cited passage of his journal.

EDW. VI. we add one standard more, which is that of silver ten ounces  
 1547. in the pound fine, or only 1 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard, and which was the very standard of the first debased money of king Henry the eighth; we shall be able to account for the silver money of this period, as well as can reasonably be expected, where almost all the pieces that come to hand are miserably mangled and defaced, where the variety of the standards and the baseness of most of them must have introduced confusion and negligence in the coinage, and where many counterfeits much complained of at the time, must now be entirely undistinguishable from the genuine coins. It follows from the indentures already quoted of the first and second years of the king, that the weight of the teston, 7 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard, was to be 120 Troy grains: and according to that rate, the weight of another of equal value, but of silver only 1 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than that Old Standard, should have been of 48 like grains. Now such a shilling, I take the piece above described to have really been, tho' it has now lost by wear almost three grains of the original weight: and I farther look upon the shillings of this sort to have been the very shillings spoken of by bishop Latimer, in that remarkable passage of one of his sermons preached before the king, where he says, " We  
 " have now a pretty little shilling, indeed a very pretty  
 " one. I have but one I think in my purse, and the last  
 " day I had put it away almost for an old groat, and so  
 " I trust some will take them. The fineness of the silver  
 " I cannot see: but therein is printed a fine sentence, *Timor*  
 " *Domini fons vitæ vel sapientiæ.* The fear of the Lord  
 " is the fountaine of life or wisdom. I would God this  
 " sentence were always printed in the heart of the king." Here are all the characteristics of the shillings above described, their smallness and the goodness of their silver; and the words cannot with propriety be understood of any  
 of

of the baser coins: against which also the good bishop inveighed with great warmth and boldness in another of his discourses, where applying a text of the prophet Isaiah he said, "*Argentum tuum versum est in scoriam*, thy silver is "turned into, what? into testions? *scoriam*, into "dross\*".

EDW. VI.  
1547.

I must here take notice, before I entirely quit the subject of these last mentioned shillings, that I have also seen some other pieces of good silver, greatly resembling the same, and of the same date 1547, that have been so much thicker as to weigh about half an ounce, together with some others that have weighed an ounce. All these I should take to have been of the same

\* The first quotation from bishop Latimer was from a sermon preached the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 1549, and the last is from another preached also before the king, on the 22<sup>d</sup> of the same month: in which as the whole passage from whence those words are taken is very remarkable, and sets forth in the strongest manner both the bishop's own sentiments, and in all probability what was then freely talked abroad also, of the pernicious consequences of the base money; I shall take the liberty of transcribing the same, as it stands in the printed collection of the bishop's sermons.—"Thus they burdened "me ever with sedition. And wot "ye what? I chanced in my last ser- "mon to speak a merry word of the "new shilling, to refresh my audi- "tory, how I was like to put away "my new shilling for an old great. "I was therein noted to speak sedi- "tiously.—I have now gotten "one fellowe more, a companion of "sedition, and wot you who is my "fellowe? Esay the prophet. I "spake but of a little prettie shilling, "but he speaketh to Jerusalem after "another sort, and was so bold as to

"meddle with their coynes. Thou "proud, thou haughty city of Jeru- "salem: *Argentum tuum versum est "in scoriam*, thy silver is turned into, "what? into testions? *scoriam*, into "dross. Ah seditious wretch, what "had he to do with the mint? why "should he not have left that matter "to some master of policy to re- "prove? thy silver is dross, it is "not fine, it is counterfeit, thy silver "is turned; thou hadst good silver. "What pertained that unto Esay? "Marry he espied a piece of divinity "in that policy, he threatneth them "God's vengeance for it. "He went to the root of the mat- "ter, which was covetousness; he "espied two points in it, that either it "came of covetousness, which be- "came him to reprove: or else that "it tended to the hurt of poore peo- "ple; for the naughtiness of the "silver was the occasion of dearth of "all things in the realme. He im- "puteth it to them as a crime. He "may be called a master of sedition "indeed. Was not this a seditious "fellow; to tell them this even to "their faces?"

EDW. VI. standard of ten ounces fine to two ounces of allay, and  
 1547. to have been consequently intended as tryal pieces, for coins of the several values of five shillings and ten shillings respectively.

1549. IN the third year of the king's reign there was a commission for the coining of silver, six ounces in the pound fine, or 5 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard, and that into SHILLINGS only, as it seems. The pound weight Troy of such silver was thereby ordered to be cut into 72 shillings, and the weight of each shilling was consequently to be, that of 80 Troy grains.

By this commission no alteration was made in the value of the money, from what was directed by the indentures of the first and second years: for 120 grains of silver four ounces fine, and 80 grains of silver six ounces fine are of equal value. Twenty therefore of these shillings were still intrinsically worth no more than nine shillings and three pennies three fourths of our present money, and the ounce of fine silver was therein rated at the nominal value of 12 shillings. These shillings, except that they were sensibly broader, did not in their make differ from the small shillings above described: they were in the same manner charged with the royal arms in an oval shield garnished, and were for the most part inscribed with the same motto, and severally dated in M.D.XLIX. and M.D.L. tho' I have seen some without any date, and with the motto INIMICOS. EIVS. INDVAM. CONFVSIONE.

BESIDES these we have other shillings of the same form, and coined in the same years, but which seem to be of better silver, and are of lighter weights: and these I take to have been some of those pieces the king refers to in his Journal, where he speaks of the standards of eight ounces and nine ounces fine. The respective weights of shillings of those standards and of equal value with the others, should be 53 grains and one third, and

60 grains: and there are such among the shillings of these dates, and that appear to be of good silver, as will be found sufficiently conformable to those several weights. Edw. VI.  
1549.

It is very surprizing that, during this period of time, the price of gold does not appear to have been raised in any proportion to that of the silver. For by the indentures of the 37<sup>th</sup> of king Henry the eighth, and the first of king Edward the sixth, the pound weight Troy of gold 20 carats fine, was to be coined into 30 pounds by tale, according to which rate the ounce of fine gold was valued at three pounds only: and whereas from what has been said above it appears, that at the same time and for four years after, the ounce of fine silver was valued at 12 shillings, it follows of consequence that fine gold was then only rated at five times as much as fine silver. Indeed in the following indentures of the third year of king Edward, fine gold is valued a little more, that is, at 3 *l.* 1 *s.* and 10 *d.* the ounce: but again in those of the 4<sup>th</sup> year it is yet valued at less, and only at about 48 *s.* the ounce; whereby it is rated at only four times the price of fine silver. It is not however credible that there could have been any free exchange of the two metals, at rates so very disagreeable to the natural proportion of their values: according to which in truth, one ounce of fine gold must then have been worth about eleven ounces of fine silver. Mr. Stow tells us in his *Survey of London*, that “this base monie, for the time, caused the old sterling monies to be hoorded up, so that he had himself seen 21 *s.* currant given for one old angell to guild withall:” And the king also in his own journal seems to allude to the same fact, that the gold monies were not freely exchanged for those of silver without a *præmium*, when speaking of the intended amendment of the coin, he says, that on the “22<sup>d</sup> of Sept. 1551. it was concluded that the testourn should be eleven ounces fine, the proportion of the  
I “pieces

EDW. VI. " pieces according to the gold; so that five shillings of  
1551. " silver should be worth five of gold."

By a Commission, in the beginning of the fifth year of the king's reign, there was a more exorbitant abasement made of the coin than had yet been attempted. SHILLINGS were thereby ordered to be coined as before, 72 out of the pound weight of bullion; but that bullion was to be only three ounces in the pound fine to nine ounces of allay, or in other words, was to be 8 oz. 2 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard of sterling moneys. By this regulation twenty of these new shillings, making a pound sterling in tale, were to be of no more intrinsic value than 4 shillings 7 pennies and three fourths, of our present money: and the ounce Troy of fine silver was thereby raised to the nominal value of twenty-four shillings.

THESE shillings were in form like the last, but they look more like latten washed than silver: they have the same legend, TIMOR. DOMINI. FONS. VITE. with the date of the year M.D.LI. There are also some others dated M.D.L. that look altogether as base as these: and hence it appears that this sort of money began to be coined before the end of that year.

THE money was now in a state of great confusion, and it is not easy to reconcile, or to understand, some entries made about this time concerning it, in the king's journal: but it is very plain that some of the basest money was coined after the resolution was taken of amending it, and even after orders were given for the proclamation by which the base moneys were first cryed down. It is said in the journal of the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, in the year 1551, that " it  
" was appointed to make twenty thousand pound weight  
" for necessity somewhat baser, to get gains 15000 l. clere,  
" by which the dette of the realm might be paid, the  
" country defended from any suddain attempt, and the  
" coin be amended;" and again on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May following,

lowing, that “whereas before commaundement was given EDW. VI. 1551.  
 “ that 160000 pound should be coined of 3 ounces fine  
 “ for discharg of dettes, and to gette some trefure to be  
 “ able to alter all, now was it stopped, saving only 80000  
 “ pound to discharg the king’s dettis, and 10000 more  
 “ weight that the *Foulcare* delivered in the last exchange,  
 “ at four ounces in the pound.” And it had been already  
 entered on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the same month, that “the testourn  
 “ was cried down from 12 *d.* to 9 *d.* and the groat from  
 “ 4 *d.* to 3 *d.*” which must be understood of the testons  
 and groats of the first four years of king Edward’s reign: all  
 which, tho’ of different standards were, as has been ob-  
 served, of the same intrinsic value.

All ways had before this been tryed, and all means had  
 been found ineffectual, for the keeping up the value and  
 supporting the currency of the base money: and procla-  
 mations had been published with severe penalties, against  
 the exportation of home commoditys, and against those  
 that refused or neglected to bring their corn and other  
 provisions to the markets\*. It further appears also, by

\* “1550. Sept. 22. A Proclama-  
 tion was fet forth, by the which it  
 “ was commanded, 1. That no kind  
 “ of victual, no wax, tallow, can-  
 “ dles, nor no such thing should be  
 “ carried over, except to *Calais*, put-  
 “ ting in sureties to go thither. 2.  
 “ That no man should buy or sell the  
 “ self same things again, except  
 “ broakers, who should not have  
 “ more than 10 quarters of grain at  
 “ once. 3. That all parties should  
 “ divide themselves into Hundreds,  
 “ Rapes, and Wapentakes, to look  
 “ in their quarters what superfluous  
 “ corn were in every barn, and ap-  
 “ point it to be sold at a reasonable  
 “ price. Also that one of them must  
 “ be in every market to see the corn

“ brought. Furthermore, whoever  
 “ shipped over any thing thing afore-  
 “ said, to the parts beyond sea, or  
 “ Scotland, after eight days following  
 “ the publication of the Proclamation,  
 “ should forfeit his ship, and the ware  
 “ therein, half to the lord of the  
 “ franchize, and half to the finder  
 “ thereof; whofo bought to sell a-  
 “ gain after the day aforesaid, should  
 “ forfeit all his goods, farms, and  
 “ leases, to the use, one half of the  
 “ finder, the other of the king;  
 “ whofo brought not in corn to  
 “ market as he was appointed, should  
 “ forfeit 10 *l.* except the purveyours  
 “ took it up, or it were sold to his  
 “ neighbours.” *King’s Journal.*

EDW. VI. the king's journal, that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1550,  
 1551. " prices had been set of all kind of grains, butter, cheese,  
 " and poultry ware by a proclamation ;" and that, on the  
 20<sup>th</sup> of the following November, " there had been letters  
 " sent down to the gentlemen of every shire, for the obser-  
 " vation of the last proclamation concerning corn, because  
 " there came none to the markets, commanding them  
 " to punish the offenders:" but that " upon letters written  
 " back by the same, the second proclamation had been  
 " abolished," on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

It was now found by experience that gold and silver had, by the common consent of all people throughout the civilized parts of the world, acquired certain real and proper values: and that in such a nation as this, not destitute even then of all commerce with strangers, it was impossible that the arbitrary value set upon pieces of base metal could, for any considerable time, supply the want of the silver that used to be contained in the pieces of the same denominations. Whatever names were given to those pieces of base metal, or by whatever authority their imaginary value was supported; the people would either not bring their provisions at all to the markets, to exchange them for such money, or would there sell them at much higher rates than before: as the nominal sums they received for their goods, would not now purchase them the same conveniences elsewhere, as the same nominal sums of better money had formerly done. It was therefore judged absolutely necessary to reform and to amend the coin; the affair was very seriously considered, and the work was undertaken and carried on, with so much diligence and vigour, that within a few months a reformation of the money was brought about, truly memorable, and no less remarkable than the former abuses of it had been: for the new pieces that were coined before the end of this year 1551, were of more than four times the value of those of  
 the

the same denominations, that had been coined in the former months of the same.

EDW. VI.

1551.

It has been already observed from the king's journal, that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May this year "the testourn was cried down from 12 *d.* to 9 *d.* &c." and this seems to have been the first step that was taken towards the amendment of the evil: by which I should only understand that it was that day resolved to make such a reduction in the value <sup>of the</sup> present money; without either then carrying it into immediate effect, or even fixing the day when that intended reduction should first take place. For we find that it was not till the 2d of July following, that "there was a proclamation signed for shortning of the fall of the money to that day; in which it should be proclaimed and devised, that it should be in all places of the realm within one day proclaimed:" and accordingly we read that there was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the same month "proclamation made that a testourn should go at 9 *d.* and a groat at 3 *d.* in all places of the realm at once." The same particular is also recorded by Mr. Stow in his *Chronicle*, who tells us that "on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, the base monies coined in the time of king Henry the eighth, and king Edward the sixth, were proclaimed, the shilling to goe for 9 *d.* the groate for 3 *d.* which took effect immediately after the proclamation made:" which cannot however be properly understood of all the base moneys of king Henry the eighth, but of those only of his 37<sup>th</sup> year, and which were of the same value as those of the first four years of king Edward the sixth.

Although this reduction of the coin was necessary, and that it proved in the end beneficial; yet were very many great sufferers by it at the time. The people naturally looked upon it as the real loss of a full fourth part of

EDW. VI. 1551. whatever cash they had by them \*: and indeed the price of things to be bought could not immediately follow the new rate of the money. They were also greatly apprehensive of the further changes that might still be intended, and of the manner in which they might yet further be affected by such changes: insomuch that upon their discontents it was thought necessary to have, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same month of July, “another proclamation made for punishment of them that would blow rumours of abasing and enhauncing of the coyn to make things dear withall.” There was however a further reduction of it within a month, for on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the following August, “the testourn was cried down from 9 *d.* to 6 *d.* the groat from 3 *d.* to 2 *d.* the 2 *d.* to 1 *d.* the penny to an half-penny, the halfpenny to a farthing:” and this second reduction is also taken notice of by Mr. Stow in his *Chronicle*, where he says, that on the same 17<sup>th</sup> of August, “the shilling which of late was called downe to nine pence, was called downe to sixpence; the groate to 2 *d.* the half groate to one penny, the penny to one half penny.”

About this time also propofals were made to the king and council concerning the new money to be from henceforward coined: and it seems to have been agreed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, that the new pieces should be minted of silver ten ounces in the pound weight fine, which it was thought might then be done without any further great loss, as the testons were already reduced to the value of only six pennies each. For it was judged that a

\* Bp. Fleetwood in his *Chronicon preciosum*, p. 57. observes, that he had then by him “an account of that time, wherein by the first proclamation dated July 9. a college lost, out of 118 *l.* 6 *s.* 11 *d.*; 29 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* ob. *q.* And by the second proclamation, dated August 17, immediately following, out of 45 *l.* 3 *s.* the college lost 15 *l.* 1 *s.* which was a 4<sup>th</sup> and a 3<sup>d</sup> part of every one’s cash, in the space of two months.”

pound:

pound weight of testons six ounces in the pound fine, added to another pound weight of those four ounces fine, would together furnish a pound of bullion ten ounces fine: and again that a pound weight of the testons of eight ounces fine, together with two ninth parts of a pound weight of those of nine ounces fine, and which were fewer in number than the others, would in like manner without further loss furnish a pound of bullion also ten ounces fine. But it was further intended that the new pennies, halfpennies and farthings, should still be coined of silver only four ounces in the pound fine: and that as it was apprehended there would thence arise a considerable profit to the king; that profit would serve to pay the extraordinary charges of this recoinage, and to make good the loss, that might arise from the want of a sufficient number of the testons of nine ounces fine, as also the loss upon such of the coins, particularly upon many of those of six ounces fine, as were supposed to have been really made baser than their appointed standards\*.

EDW. VI.  
1551.

\* I take what is said above to be the true meaning of the following passage of the king's journal, which I was willing to take notice of, though I may be thought to have wandered too far from my purpose; as this scheme was not really put in practice. I am also very sensible that I have, throughout this account of king Edward's money, mentioned many particulars that may seem either trifling or unnecessary: I shall hope notwithstanding to be excused, that on the occasion of so great a change as was now made in the money, I have endeavoured to collect and lay together all the several facts, that appeared to have any relation to so remarkable a transaction. The passage is as follows; — "Whereupon agreed that the testoun being called to six-

“ pence, four with help of six should  
 “ make ten fine, eight with help of  
 “ nine, being fewer than those of  
 “ eight, should make ten ounces fine,  
 “ the two ounces of allay should  
 “ quit the charge of minting; and  
 “ those of threepence, being but  
 “ few, should be turned to a standard  
 “ of four, of farthings, and halfpence,  
 “ and pence, for to serve for the  
 “ poor people, because the mer-  
 “ chants made no exchange of it,  
 “ and the sum was not great. Also  
 “ to bear the charges, for because it  
 “ was thought that few or none were  
 “ left of nine ounces fine, eight  
 “ ounces were naught, and six ounces  
 “ were two ways devised, one with-  
 “ out any craft, the other was not  
 “ fully six, of which kind was not a  
 “ few.”

## A T A B L E O F

EDW. VI.  
1551.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of the same September, “there was a proclamation set forth touching the prices of cattel, of hogs, pigs, beeves, oxen, muttuns, butter, and cheefe,” and the king observes that it was “after a reasonable price, not fully so good cheap as when the coin was at the perfectest but within a fifth part of it, or thereabouts”\*.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of the same month there was “a proclamation set forth touching the coin, that whereas it was so that men for gain melted down the ninepence testourn continually, and the sixpence also; there should no person in any ways melt it down upon pain to incur the penalty of the laws.” Upon which it may not be improper to observe, that as the common teston was already called down to six pennies, this nine pennie teston must have been of a different sort: and may reasonably be concluded to have been that of the 36<sup>th</sup> of Henry the eighth, which being of the goodnes of six ounces fine, and of the same weight as the teston of four ounces fine, was consequently worth nine pennies when

\* The money that was of more value, by one fifth part, than the money now current upon the foot of the last reduction, was the money of the 34<sup>th</sup> year of king Henry the eighth: and sixteen shillings therefore of that money, or four fifths of the pound sterling, must then have bought as much of any sort of commodity, *ceteris paribus*, as twenty shillings of this; or twenty shillings of that money must in other words have bought of any sort of goods one fifth more than twenty shillings of this. If then provisions were in this proclamation valued at reasonable prices, those prices must have been computed from the accounts of the markets, while that sort of money was generally current. But if, as the

quotation seems to imply, those prices were in truth computed, from like accounts taken, “when the coin was at the perfectest,” or when it had not yet been debased from the goodnes of the Old Standard: they should if just and equitable not have been such prices, as were only one fifth part, but such as were one third part dearer than the prices of the same things, at the time when the last Old Standard money was still in use. For during that period, which was from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 34<sup>th</sup> of the last king, fine silver was rated in the coins at four shillings the ounce; and consequently, being now valued at six shillings the ounce, must have been considered as one third part dearer than it was, when rated only at four.

the

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

41

the other was reduced to six. The six pennie piece also here mentioned was possibly the side faced groat of the 18<sup>th</sup> of Henry the eighth, and which being of Old Standard silver, and of the weight of 42 grains, was very nearly of the same value as the last reduced teston. EDW. VI.  
1551.

BUT here arises a difficulty with regard to the profit that could be made by thus melting down these pieces: for as they were, in proportion to the common testons, of no greater value than what they are here supposed to have run for, no profit could arise from such a misdemeanour. The gunhole groats were, in proportion to the sixpennie teston, worth no more than five pennies each, and therefore, if allowed to pass for six pennies, went above their value. The old groats indeed that were coined from the 4<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the fourth to the 18<sup>th</sup> of king Henry the eighth, if they also had course for six pennies, might possibly be melted with some advantage: for weighing 48 grains each, those among them that were undiminished and of near their full weight, were worth about three farthings more than the six pennie teston. But I should be apt to think there were now very few of the older and better coins stirring in business: for all that could be come at had already been coined down for profit into the baser *species*; and those few that remained, were only such as had been preserved, and kept up in the private hoards of careful timorous people, when the coin was first debased. I should therefore think upon the whole, that either this proclamation was grounded upon some mistaken apprehension of the facts to which it relates; or that those facts were really such as had been committed before the base money was reduced; and whilst the exorbitant price set upon silver, and the general confusion in the coin, might afford prospects of considerable gain from such evil practices.

L

ALL

EDW. VI. 1551. ALL that we now have of the older coins, are the remains, as I apprehend, of some of the hoards of the old money just above mentioned: excepting only such as may have been found since, in places where they had been hidden or lost in yet earlier times. For it does not appear that any of those pieces were ever current in common payments after this time: and I have always been told, that in a manner all the silver that came to the mints, in the great recoinage of the clipt and hammer'd money in the time of king William the third, consisted only of pieces coined between the sixth year of the reign of king Edward the sixth, and the year 1662, when the coinage by the mill and screw was introduced.

WE next learn from the king's journal, that the lords of the council having had all the several sorts of the base money assayed before them at London on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same September, the king himself being then at Windsor; they had found that the several sorts of testons, which were apprehended to have been coined baser than even the several indentures and commissions allowed, were really better than was expected, and that they had severally answered to their respective valuations: and that further, upon taking of the several pieces mixed together as they ran, they had found that 400 pounds in tale, reckoning the teston at six pennies, did truly contain as much silver as was sufficient to coin 400 pounds in tale of new money, as heavy or heavier than the last, and of the goodness of eleven ounces fine in the pound weight\*. "Whereupon they reported

\* "The Lords at London having  
 " tried all sorts of stamping, both of  
 " the fineness of 9, 8, 6, 4, and  
 " 3, proved that without any loss  
 " but sufferable, the coin might be  
 " brought to eleven ounces fine: for  
 " whereas it was thought before, that  
 " the testoun was through ill officers  
 " and ministers corrupted, it was  
 " tried that it had the valuation just  
 " by eight sundry kinds of melting,  
 " and 400 *l.* of sterling mony, a  
 " testoun being but six pence made  
 " 400 *l.* 11 ounces fine, of mony  
 " sterling." *King's Journal of the*  
*20 Sep. 1551.*

“ the same to the king on the 22<sup>d</sup>, and then it was EDW. VI.  
 “ concluded that the testourn should be eleven ounces 1551.  
 “ fine, the proportion of the pieces according to the gold ;  
 “ so that five shillings of silver should be worth five of  
 “ of gold.”

ON the 24<sup>th</sup> of the same month it was “ agreed that  
 “ that the stamp of the shilling and the sixpence should  
 “ be on one side, a king painted to the shoulders in par-  
 “ liament robes, with the chain of the order. Five shil-  
 “ lings of silver and half five shillings, should be a king  
 “ on horseback armed, with a naked sword hard to his  
 “ breast.” As also that the fine moneys should be coined  
 at the mints in the Tower and in Southwark ; and the  
 small pieces of a baser standard at Canterbury and York.

ON the first of the next month of October, “ the com-  
 “ mission for the making of five shillings, half five shil-  
 “ lings, grotes \*, and sixpences, eleven ounces fine ; and  
 “ pence with halfpence and farthings four ounces fine,  
 “ was followed and signed.” So far the king : and we  
 further learn from Mr. Stow, that the pieces themselves  
 were accordingly published and proclaimed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of  
 the same month †.

BUT by the indentures made immediately after with  
 the masters and workers of the several mints, it appears  
 that these finer coins were really 11 oz. 1 d. wt. fine, or  
 only 1 d. wt. worse than the Old Standard : and that the  
 pound weight Troy of such silver was then agreed to be  
 cut into three pounds by tale, in CROWNS OR PIECES OF

\* *Grotes* : there were now no four pennie pieces coined, this word was therefore wrote for *shillings*, or meant such pieces ; as in Stow, “ a groat which was in value 12 d.” *Anno* 1504.

† The 30<sup>th</sup> of October, was proclaimed a new coin both of gold and silver, to wit, — A peece of silver of 5 s. sterling, the second peece of 2 s. 6 d. sterling, the third peece a shilling of 12 pence sterling, the 4<sup>th</sup> peece of 6 pence sterling, of smaller money, a penny of the double rose, not sterling but base, and halfe penny of the single rose, the 3<sup>rd</sup> peece a farthing with a port clove. *Stow's Chronicle*, :551.

## A TABLE OF

EDW. VI. FIVE SHILLINGS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALF SHILLINGS, QUARTER SHILLINGS, PENNIES, HALF PENNIES, and FARTHING. According to which regulation

the crown piece was to weigh an ounce Troy, and the shilling 96 grains: and the pound sterling, consisting of four of these crowns, or twenty of these shillings, was to be intrinsically worth about 6 *d.* 3 *q.* more than twenty shillings of our present coin.

IN this indenture fine silver is valued at five shillings and five pennies the ounce nearly; and whereas in the gold coin, directed by the same, fine gold is valued at three pounds the ounce: it follows that what was then thought the true proportion of the value of gold to that of silver, was the proportion of eleven to one.

OF the eight pieces last mentioned, the five first are common, and in the hands of every one that looks into these matters: but the three last I have never seen or heard of. It is indeed probable, notwithstanding what is said in the indenture, that the pieces themselves were never really coined: as there was a commission still subsisting for the coinage of pennies, halfpennies, and farthings, of a baser sort at Canterbury and York; and as we learn from Stow, that these last were actually proclaimed with the other coins, whereas he takes no notice of any pieces of those denominations, that were of the finer standard.

THE crowns and half crowns were impressed on one side, as was before directed, with the figure of the king on horseback, crowned and in armour, with his drawn sword in his hand; and underneath the horse, which was richly caparisoned, was the date of the year 1551, 1552, or 1553, which last was the year of his death. On the shillings, half shillings, and quarter shillings, was represented the king's bust full faced, crowned, and dressed in parliament robes with the chain of the order: on the

the right side of his head was a full blown rose, and on the left were placed the figures XII. VI. or III. expressing the number of pennies for which each piece respectively ran; and which were now become in some sort necessary, from the great alterations that had lately been made in the value of the silver coins. The king's style upon all these pieces was EDWARD. VI. D. G. AGL. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. and upon all their reverses were the royal arms on a sort of cross fleurie, and in a plain escutcheon, as upon the shillings and last groats of king Henry the seventh, with the ordinary motto POSVI. DEV. ADIVTORE. MEV.

EDW. VI.  
1551.

THESE last mentioned pieces were of two sorts, some being marked with the figure of a ton, and the others with the letter Y: The former have commonly been called Throckmorton's, as the latter have also been called Yorke's moneys; from the names of the gentlemen that were at that time respectively masters and workers of the several mints, in the Tower of London, and in the borough of Southwark, where those moneys were coined. Besides which, I have also seen half shillings and quarter shillings minted at York: these were all marked with a mollet pierced, and had CIVITAS. EBORACI. instead of the common legend on their reverse.

THE pennies of the baser silver had, according to Mr. Stow, a double rose upon them, the halfpennies a single rose, and the farthings a portcullis. I have several times seen the two first, which had E. D. G. ROSA. SIE. SPIA. about the rose on the right side, and the name of the place of mintage round the arms on the reverse: but none of the farthings with the portcullis have ever yet come to my hand.

IT may be here observed, that the last described shillings, half shillings, and quarter shillings of king Edward, were the last pieces of silver upon which any of our princes have been represented with a full face.

Q. MARY.  
1553.

KING Edward deceased on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1553, but queen Mary his sister was not proclaimed till the 19<sup>th</sup>, and did not make her entry into London till the 3<sup>d</sup> of August following. A few days after she made new indentures with the officers of her mint in the Tower of London, whereby the pound weight Troy of silver, eleven ounces in the pound fine, or 2 *d. wt.* worse than the Old Standard, was directed to be coined into three pounds by tale; namely, into GROATS, HALF-GROATS, and PENNIES. According to which appointment the groat was to weigh 32 Troy grains, and the pound sterling containing 60 of those groats, was to be worth very nearly 20 shillings and five pennies three fourths, of our present silver money.

THE new pieces were published by proclamation on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, and the base coins were ordered by the same to continue current as before. The groats, half groats, and pennies were all impressed on one side with the queen's head crowned and in profile, and on the other with her royal arms upon a cross after the usual manner. Her style upon the two first was MARIA. D'. G'. ANG'. FRA'. Z. HIB'. REGI'. with the motto VERITAS. TEMPORIS. FILIA. on the reverse: but the pennies had only M'. D'. G'. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. round the head, and CIVITAS. LONDON. about the royal arms. All these pieces had for a mint mark the figure of a small pomegranate, placed after the first word of the legend on both sides.

1154.

UPON the queen's marriage with Philip afterwards king of Spain, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1554, he was immediately complimented with the title of king: and his name was in consequence of it joyned with the queen's, in the legend of all her money coined after that time. The pieces however last described, were still stamped with her head and arms only; tho' with the style of PHILIP. ET. MARIA. REX. ET. REGINA, on the groats and half groats, and

P. ET.

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

47

P. ET. M. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. on the pennies. The legend Q. MARY.  
 also on the reverse of the two first pieces was changed into 1554.  
 POSVIMVS. DEVM. ADIVTO. NOS. And all the coins I have  
 met with of this sort have been marked with a *fleur*  
*de lis*.

BESIDES these, there were also coined about the  
 same time, and probably first out of the treasure brought  
 over by king Philip, and by him sent with great solem-  
 nity to the mint, SHILLINGS and HALF SHILLINGS of  
 weights proportionable to the other coins. These had on  
 on one side the profile heads both of the king and queen  
 looking at each other, with a crown between them above,  
 and their style PHILIP. ET. MARIA. D. G. R. ANG. FR. NEAP.  
 PR. HISP. round about. Their reverses presented an oval  
 shield crowned and garnished, upon which the Spanish arms  
 were impaled on the right side, with the English on the left:  
 and they were inscribed like the groats with the legend  
 POSVIMVS. DEVM. ADIVTOREM. NOSTRYM. On the sides  
 of the crown were placed the numeral figures XII. or VI.  
 denoting the respective values of the pieces: some of  
 which were not dated, but others were, and had on the  
 sides of the crown over the heads of the king and queen  
 the date of the year 1554, or of the following years to  
 1558, in which last the queen died on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of  
 November.

IN the year 1555, an alteration was made in the style 1555.  
 of the king and queen upon these last pieces, who were  
 from that time only called PHILIP. ET. MARIA. D. G. REX.  
 ET. REGINA. ANG. and indeed the title of PR. HISP.  
 was now become improper, as Philip was this year crowned  
 king of Spain, upon the resignation of the emperor  
 Charles the fifth his father.

I have nothing further to observe concerning these shil-  
 lings and half shillings, but that some of them are marked  
 with a *fleur de lis*, tho' by far the greater number are

Q: MARY. without any mint mark. I have neither seen the indenture nor the commission by which they were coined: and it is remarkable that Mr. Stow, tho' otherwise so exact in his account of the coins of this time, takes nevertheless no notice of these pieces, which he must have remember'd the first coinage of, and which must have been very plentiful when he wrote, as so many of them are still remaining at this day.

1555.

I have seen a small base piece with a rose, and P. Z. M. ROSA. SINE. SPINA, the royal arms and CIVITAS. LONDON. on the reverse. This I take to have been a halfpennie, and I conclude from thence, that as king Edward after the reformation of his coin did still strike pennies, halfpennies, and farthings of a baser sort; so this queen did also coin the like, both before and after her marriage, tho' very few of these small pieces have been preserved, and tho' I have never yet seen what I could take for one of the farthings\*. Whether queen Mary did, like her brother, coin any money at Canterbury and York, does not appear: but I have seen no pieces so inscribed, and it is certain that her sister and successor never coined any but in the Tower of London.

\* I have not met with the indenture by virtue of which this base money was coined. But by a *Memorandum* I have seen of the then officers of the mint Thomas Stanley and William Knight, it appears that “ in the first  
“ and second of Philip and Mary, there  
“ was made into money of rose pence,  
“ of the standard of 3 oz. fine silver  
“ to the pound: 6510 pound weight,  
“ at 40 *sh.* the pound weight; as by  
“ indenture in *March*, 1<sup>o</sup> et 2<sup>o</sup> *Regum*  
“ *dit.*” Hence it follows that the pennies of this sort weighed 12 grains each: but I should suppose the word *pence* in the *Memorandum*, to be in-

discriminately used for either pennies, half pennies, or farthings. The small base moneys of king Edward were of silver 4 oz. in the pound fine, according to his journal: but there is in the mint the copy of an indenture for the making of others only 3 oz. in the pound fine: which indenture bearing date the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, *A<sup>o</sup> Regni* 7<sup>o</sup>. a few days only before the king's death, was probably never complied with in his time; tho' it appears by what has been just said, that some at least of the small money coined in the following reign, was made agreeable to the directions of that indenture.

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

49

THE first silver coins of queen Elizabeth were SHILLINGS, GROATS, HALF-GROATS, and PENNIES, of the Old Standard of 11.oz. 2d. wt. fine silver to 18 d. wt. of alloy: and it appears by an indenture made with Thomas Stanley and others, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, in the second year of her reign, that the pound Troy of such silver was then coined into three pounds by tale\*. According to which appointment these shillings, like the last of king Edward's, and all queen Mary's, were still to weigh 96 grains each: and the pound sterling consisting of 20 such shillings, was to be intrinsically worth twenty shillings and eight pennies of our present coined money.

Q. ELIZ.  
1558.

ALL these four pieces had on one side the queen's head in profile crowned, and on the reverse her royal arms in a plain escutcheon, and placed upon a cross after the usual manner. The queen's style upon the three larger pieces was ELIZABETH. D'. G'. ANG'. FR'. ET'. HIB'. REGINA. and the legend POSVI. DEV'. ADJVTOREM. MEV'. on the reverse: but the pennies had only E. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. on the one side, and CIVITAS. LONDON. on the other. This money was all marked with a martlet, commonly but very erroneously called a drake, with a cross croset, or with a *fleur de lis*.

\* Altho' this indenture of the 8<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1560, is the first of this queen of which I have any account, I am perswaded that there must have been other indentures made earlier than this, or commissions given to the same purpose soon after she came to the crown. For it would otherwise follow, that queen Elizabeth coined no money with her own name during the two first years of her reign: which being contrary to the general practice of all other princes, is not to be admitted; and we know besides that she coined

money for Ireland a few months only after her accession. But however that matter stands, the coins here described were certainly her first: for it evidently appears that the half shillings and other pieces to be next spoken of, were not coined before the latter end of the year 1561. Besides which it may be observed, that as the first coins are found impressed with three different mint marks; it thence appears that there were three tryals of the pix before the publication of the following pieces.

N

QUEEN

Q. ELIZ.  
1560.

QUEEN Elizabeth is greatly celebrated by all our historians for the restoring of the old standard of the coin in her silver moneys; and no less for the abolishing and recoin- ing of the base pieces minted in the times of her father and her brother: in which however she can only be said with truth, to have given the last finishing to a work already brought very near its perfection. For king Edward, as hath been observed above, had himself reduced the base money nearly to the intrinsic value, and had besides, in the last one and twenty months of his life, coined down by far the greatest part of it, into money very little inferior in goodness, and not at all inferior in weight, to any that has been minted since.

I shall here give the account of this matter in the words of the old chronicle of Raphael Holinshed, with which also John Stow and Mr. Camden do perfectly agree :

“ THE queen’s majesty by the advice of her most ho-  
 “ nourable council, meaning to abolish all corrupt, base,  
 “ and copper moneys then current in the realm of Eng-  
 “ land, coined in the times and reigns of king Henry the  
 “ eighth, and king Edward the sixth, to the great hin-  
 “ derance and decaye of the commonwealth of this realm,  
 “ and therewith to restore to all her subjects fine and  
 “ pure sterling moneys, both of gold and silver, to the  
 “ great honour and benefit of the whole realm: pub-  
 “ lished a proclamation on Michaelmas even before  
 “ noone, that the teston coined for twelve pence, should  
 “ now forthwith, that of the best sort marked with the  
 “ portculeis, be current for fourpence halfpennie: the  
 “ second marked with the greyhound for twopence far-  
 “ thing: the third and worst sort not marked as afore,  
 “ not to be current at all, nor received for any value.  
 “ The grote to be current for twopence, the former piece  
 “ of twopence for a pennie, *etc.* It was not long after  
 “ this,

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

51

“ this, but that her grace restoring to her subjects fine  
 “ sterling money, called all the said base and corrupt  
 “ coins into her majesty’s mint, allowing to them there-  
 “ fore after the rate before mentioned, so much of the  
 “ said fine moneys as they brought in of the said base  
 “ moneys.\*”

Q. ELIZ.  
 1560.

UPON these words I have only to observe, that the testons here said to have been countermarked with a portcullis, and then suffered to pass for some time, being those that were before reduced to the value of sixpennies by king Edward, were really after the rate of the queen’s money, if coined to their standard and undiminished, worth about five pennies and a farthing each. But as they were by this time somewhat worn down, besides the other defects they might possibly have, it is reasonable to think that this price of four pennies and a halfpennie, was as much as they would hold out to one with another: and one of these testons thus countermarked with a portcullis, and dated in 1549, I remember to have seen in the collection of the late earl of Oxford.

THE other testons said to have been countermarked with a greyhound, must have been those of just half the value of the former, that is to say, those that were coined in 1551, of silver only three ounces in the pound fine. But of the third sort here spoken of, and which were neither countermarked, nor suffered to run at any rate, can only have been those that had been counterfeited either here

\* Agreeable to what is here related, I have seen an indenture made with Thomas Fleetwood, under treasurer of the mint in the Tower of London, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 3<sup>o</sup> Eliz. 1560, whereby he covenanted “ to take into  
 “ his hands by number and tale, all  
 “ such base money of her highness’s  
 “ coin then current, as should be sent  
 “ in by her highness or her subjects, &c.  
 “ after such rates and values as were  
 “ appointed in the late proclamation :  
 “ giving bills for the same. And  
 “ the same then to refine and convert  
 “ into sterling moneys of silver, v. z.  
 “ into shillings, grotes, half grotes,  
 “ and pennies, of the standard of  
 “ 11 oz. 2 d. wt.” &c.

Q. ELIZ. or abroad, and of which great complaints had frequently  
1560. been made: for the testons last mentioned, and which were now allowed to pass for two pennies and a farthing, were the basest of any that were ever coined here by public authority\*.

1561. The queen did as we learn from Holinshed and Stow, publish several small coins of silver by proclamation on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1561, which was but two days before the end of her third year. These were, they inform us, PIECES OF SIX PENNIES, FOUR PENNIES, THREE PENNIES, TWO PENNIES, and ONE PENNIE, as also PIECES OF THREE HALF PENNIES and THREE FARTHINGs: and Mr. Lowndes quotes an indenture as of the second year of the queen, in which pieces of all those several denominations were contracted for. This indenture I have not myself seen, but I should take it not to have been of the second, but rather of the third year of the queen's reign; as the pieces coined in consequence of it do not appear to have been really published before the end of that third year. The half shillings and some others of these pieces bear respectively the dates of their coinage upon them, yet none of these, tho' exceedingly common, have ever been produced with an earlier date than that of the year 1561.

\* The book called *Camden's Remains*, speaking of this transaction, says, that the queen being "desirous to refine the coin, not according to the legal, but natural estimation of the metal, first marked the base money, some with a greyhound, other with a portulicce, and other with a lion, harp, rose, or flower de lys, and after a time calling them to her mint, repayed so much for them as they contained in pure silver." But I greatly suspect that what is there

said of the four other marks, not mentioned by Holinshed to have been thus stamped on the base moneys, is a mistake; for the two he speaks of were sufficient to distinguish all the coins that could remain doubtful, and which were properly but of two values. The harp I take to have been only the common mint mark of the Irish moneys coined about this time, as the lion, rose, and the *fleur de lis* were the like marks of some of the English.

ALL these coins were of the same fashion and of the same goodness as the first pieces of the queen's money above described, and their weights were severally proportioned to their respective values. It is only to be noted, that all the four several pieces now first coined, which were the pieces of six and three pennies, and those of three half pennies and three farthings, had the figure of a full blown rose placed behind the queen's head; and that they were besides all dated on their respective reverses: whereas none of the other pieces minted either before or now, had the rose or the date upon them.

Q. ELIZ.  
1561.

By this particular every piece was readily distinguished from that next above it, and that next below it in value, as they were all coined alternately, from the shilling to the piece of three farthings, without and with this distinction of roses and dates: and this was of singular use, in the lesser pieces especially, as those would otherwise have been in the greatest danger of being perpetually mistaken one for another\*.

THE

\* Mr. Thoresby, N<sup>o</sup> 313. p. 366. of his *Ducatus Leodiensis*, etc. is mistaken in what he there says of the three half pennie, three farthing, and half pennie pieces of this queen, which he had either not seen or not sufficiently attended to. He there says, "The three half pennie piece hath a rose without the queen's head, E. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. Rev. CIVITAS. EBORACI. with the arms, it weighs 12 grains, but is mix'd money." This piece was truly one of the above-mentioned base pennies of king Edward the sixth, and which were by his journal to be coined at Canter. and York, whereas queen Elizabeth coined no money at either of these places. What he conjectures to have been the three farthing piece,

was exactly like the pennie, must only have been a pennie ill preserved: and the half pennies he presently after speaks of, that had a rose only on each side, were really those of king Charles the first, as will be observed in the account of his coins. Shakespear in his *King John*, has a remarkable allusion to the true type of the three farthing piece, which must have been still current in his time, though he puts the words in the mouth of a person that lived long before any such pieces were coined. He there introduces the bastard Faulconbridg, exposing the slight shape and thin countenance of his legitimate elder brother, and who having just before compared him to a half faced goat, at last assimilates him to a yet more contemptible piece of money,

our

Q. ELIZ.  
1561.

THE three half pennie and three farthing pieces, had like the pennies only CIVITAS. LONDON. on their reverse, instead of the common legend of the larger coins: they continued to be minted from the forementioned year 1561 to 1572, during which period they were marked successively with a pheon, a rose, a portcullis, a lion of England, a ducal crown, and a castle. But I do not remember to have yet seen a groat with any of these several mint marks.

WHAT has hitherto been said relates only to the hammered money: and there were also, during part of this period, namely from 1561 to 1568, other pieces coined in a more elegant taste, and as it seems by the mill and screw. These were of all the denominations of this queen's money yet mentioned; and the descriptions of the former pieces may serve also for these; with this only difference, that all the coins of this last sort, were of exquisite beauty, and far excelled any that had yet been seen of the English moneys. The circle that was within the legend upon all the other coins was omitted upon these, and the letters were of a much more square and regular shape. The former observation about the roses and the dates is also true of these pieces, which having particular marks must have been pixed by themselves, and

our three farthing piece: saying of himself that he would not at any rate have such a person,

——— *my face so thin,  
That in mine ear I durst not stick a rose,  
Lest men should say, look where three  
farthings goes!*

There is also a passage in the *Scornful Lady* of Beaumont and Fletcher, that not only shews the difference between the pennie and the three farthing piece; but also informs us of a kna-

vish trick then commonly practised to impose the lesser of these coins upon heedless people for the other: "He had a bastard, his own toward issue, whipt, and then cropt, for wathing out the roses in three farthings to make them pence." See *Theobald's notes upon Shakespear's King John*. Agreeable to this last mentioned observation I have myself met with a broad groat, upon which a counterfeit rose had been attempted, probably to make it look like a six pennie piece, and pass for such.

were

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

were probably but few in number compared with those of the common sort that were coined at the same time. These mint marks were a star of six points from 1561 to 1564, and a *fleur de lis*, from 1564 to 1568. I have seen all the eight several pieces from the shilling to the three farthings, but do not recollect to have met with either shilling, groat, or half groat, that was marked with the *fleur de lis*.

Q. ELIZ.  
1561.

THE maker of this milled money is reported to have been one Philip Mestrelle a Frenchman; an excellent artist: but who falling besides into the infamous practice of coining false and counterfeit money, was thereof convicted, and for the same executed as a traytor, with two other offenders of the same sort, at Tyburn the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 1569.

JOHN LONISON was appointed master and worker of the queen's mint in 1572, the 14<sup>th</sup> year of her reign: and I find by the indentures made with him the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April that year, that the groats, half groats, and pennies, mentioned in the indentures made with his immediate predecessors, were all omitted in these new ones; by which only half shillings, and pieces of three pennies, three half pennies, and three farthings, were appointed to be coined. There was nevertheless some time after a commission made out, by which he was also directed to add pennies to the other pieces\*: and these moneys resembling in all respects

1572:

\* The commission that I have seen for the coining of these pennies was of the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 21 Eliz. By which it also appears that notwithstanding all the queen's indentures were for silver money of the Old Standard, there was however about this time a small deviation from the same, besides an allowance to coin the several pieces a small matter lighter than those indentures required. For it

is therein set forth after reciting the indenture made with Lonison the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 14 Eliz. that "the queen for great and urgent causes heretoreunto moveing, minding for a short time to tolerate some alteration from the express words of the said indenture, authorizes the said Lonison to make besides the sorts of money thereby appointed to be coined, pennies 720 to the pound,

*It will be seen by the above that the queen's commission of the 29th of December, 21 Eliz. authorized the coinage of pennies of a smaller weight than those appointed by the indenture of the 19th of April, 14 Eliz. and that the queen's commission of the 14th of April, 1572, authorized the coinage of half shillings, three pennies, three half pennies, and three farthings.*

Q. ELIZ. 1572. respects those before coined of the same denominations did accordingly continue to be minted till the year 1582. The several mint marks used during these years, were the spot of ermyne, the acorne, the cinquefoyle, the plain cross, and the sword.

1575. BESIDES these moneys that were all hammered, there were coined in 1575, by the mill and screw, some half shillings and quarter shillings, and possibly also pieces of the other denominations mentioned in the last indentures. These coins were very beautiful in their execution, and particularly ordered with respect to the cross on the reverse, which was much broader than that on the other moneys. There was also somewhat singular in the manner in which the legends were wrote, ELIZABETH. DE. GR. ANG. FR. & HIB. REGINA. and POSVI. DEV<sup>M</sup>. ADIVTOREM. MEV<sup>M</sup>. the inner circle was left out as on the former milled money, and the points between the words were small roses. The mint mark of these pieces was a mollet, and the figure of the half shilling of this sort has been published both in *Speed's History*, and in one of the plates of the Society of Antiquaries. This half shilling I have several times met with; but the quarter shilling, which is almost in every respect like it, I have only seen, and that in the highest preservation, among

“ and to make the gold of the fineness of 23 carats, 3 grains and one fourth, and the silver of the standard of 11 oz. 1 d. wt. and to shere the gold at 36l. 1 sb. 10 d. half-pennie, and the silver at 60 sb. and 3 d. the pound weight; remedy one eighth of a carat, and 2 d. wt. as usual, etc.” which commission was “to extend to no bullion that should be taken in after the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April then next ensuing:” but like commissions were however renewed after this from

time to time, and I have seen another to Sir Richard Martyn of the 23<sup>d</sup> of May, 24 Eliz. wherein it is set forth, after reciting “that the queen had granted the like commission on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, regni 23<sup>o</sup>, to continue in force to the last of October then next following, that she, being minded for some time longer to tolerate the same alterations, gives this commission every way the same, to continue to the last of November then next coming.”

the

the many scarce and valuable coins that are in the curious collection of my honoured friend Dr. Mead.

Q. ELIZ.  
1582.

IN the year 1582, there were made on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the 25<sup>th</sup> of the queen, new indentures with Sir Richard Martyn, then master and worker of her majesty's mint: whereby the several pieces of three pennies, three half pennies, and three farthings were all laid aside; and SHILLINGS only, HALF SHILLINGS, and PIECES OF TWO PENNIES, ONE PENNIE, and A HALF PENNIE, were ordered thenceforward to be coined. All these pieces were to be of the Old Standard, and of weights answerable to their respective values, after the former rate of five shillings to the ounce Troy. They were in their make like the moneys of the same denominations before minted, excepting that upon the two larger pieces the three last letters of the queen's name were constantly omitted, and for the most part also the two last of the word REGINA. The two pennie pieces now coined had E. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. on the one side, with CIVITAS. LONDON. on the other: and they had besides two points to denote their value placed behind the queen's head. The half pennies now coined for the first time in this reign, had not any legend, but only on the one side the figure of a portcullis with a mint mark, and on the other a cross moline with three points in each of the four quarters. These several pieces continued to be thus coined without interruption from 1582 to 1601: during which time their mint marks successively were, a bell, the letter  $\mathfrak{A}$ , an escallop shell, a crescent, an open hand, a ton, a woolpack, a key, an anchor, and an annulet. Some of the shillings marked with a key were particular, being from a neater die, and having the escutcheon handsomely garnished on their reverse.

IN the year 1601, which was the 43<sup>d</sup> of queen Elizabeth, there was a new indenture made on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, with the same master and worker Sir Richard Martyn: which indenture was for the coining of silver

Q. ELIZ.  
1601.

moneys of the Old Standard, but of a somewhat lighter weight. For the pound Troy, of such standard silver was thereby ordered to be coined, as it has ever since been, into three pounds and two shillings by tale: namely, into CROWNS OR PIECES OF FIVE SHILLINGS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, PIECES OF SIX PENNIES, and TWO PENNIES, PENNIES, and HALF PENNIES. From hence we learn that the true standard weight of a crown piece is 464.516 Troy grains, and that of a shilling 92.903 of the same grains: and that the nominal pound sterling as now settled in England, contains 3 oz. 17 d. wt. 10.0645 gr. of Old Standard, or 3 oz. 11 d. wt. 14.7096 gr. of Fine Silver.

THESE crowns and half crowns, which were the first pieces of the sort that had been minted since the death of king Edward the sixth, had on one side the queen's effigies drawn in profile below the shoulders, in the habit of the time, with the crown on her head, the scepter in her right hand, the orb in her left, and her style round about, ELIZABETH. D'. G'. ANG'. FRA'. ET. HIBER'. REGINA. and on the reverse were placed upon a cross fleurie as usual, the royal arms in an escutcheon garnished, with the common motto, POSVI. DEVM. ADIVTOREM. MEVM. The five lesser pieces were, excepting their weight, exactly like those of the same denominations before coined; and they are now only distinguishable from the others, by their mint marks 1. and 2. as the half shillings are also by the several dates 1601 and 1602. stamped upon their reverses. And these were the last silver coins of queen Elizabeth, who departed this life at Richmond, on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1602\*.

I HAVE

\* As in speaking of the money of this reign in particular, I have had frequent occasion to mention the mint marks, or the privy marks, as they have been usually called in the mint, it may be necessary to say a word of the

I HAVE seen a pretty many half shillings of queen Elizabeth, and a few pieces of her gold, that were countermarked with a stamp of the arms of Zeeland: and this

Q. ELIZ.  
1601.

the nature and use of those marks. It may therefore be observed, that it hath been usual from old time to oblige the masters and workers of the mint, in the indentures made with them, "to make a privy mark in all the money that they made, as well of gold as of silver, so that another time they might know, if need were, and witte which moneys of gold and silver, among other of the same moneys, were of their own making, and which not." And whereas, after every tryal of the pix at Westminster, the masters and workers of the mint, having there proved their moneys to be lawful and good, were immediately intituled to receive their *quietus* under the great seal, and to be discharged from all sutes or actions concerning those moneys, it was then usual for the said masters and workers to change the privy mark before used for another, that so the moneys from which they were not yet discharged might be distinguished from those for which they had already received their *quietus*. Which new mark they then continued to stamp upon all their moneys, until another tryal of the pix gave them also their *quietus* concerning those.

The pix is a strong box with three locks, whose keys are respectively kept by the warden, master, and comptroller of the mint: and in which are deposited, sealed up in several parcels, certain pieces taken at random out of every journey, as it is called, that is, out of every 15 pounds weight of gold, or 60 pounds weight of silver, before the same is

delivered to the proprietors. And this pix is from time to time, by the king's command, opened at Westminster, in the presence of the lord chancellor, the lords of the council, the lords commissioners of the treasury, the justices of the several benches, and the barons of the Exchequer: before whom a tryal is made, by a jury of goldsmiths impanelled and sworn for that purpose; of the collective weights, of certain parcels of the several pieces of gold and silver taken at random from those contained in the pix; after which those parcels being severally melted, assays are then made of the bullion of gold and silver so produced, by the melting certain small quantities of the same against equal weights taken from the respective tryal pieces of gold and silver, that are deposited and kept in the Exchequer for that use. This is called the tryal of the pix, the report made by the jury upon that tryal is called the verdict of the pix for that time: and the indented tryal pieces just above mentioned, are certain plates of standard gold, and standard silver, made with the greatest care and delivered in upon oath, from time to time as there is occasion, by a jury of the most able and experienced goldsmiths, summoned by virtue of a warrant from the lords of the treasury to the wardens of the mystery of goldsmiths of the city of London for that purpose; and which plates being so delivered in are divided each, at this time, into seven parts by indentures, one of which parts is kept in his majesty's court of Exchequer at Westminster, another by the said company

Q. ELIZ. 1601. this was probably done in the Low Countrys to give currency there, to the moneys carried over by the earl of Leicester, when he was sent by the queen to give succour to those provinces against the Spaniards.

## THE

company of goldsmiths, and two more by the officers of his majesty's mint in the Tower; the remaining three being for the use of the mint, &c. in Scotland. The pix has sometimes been tryed every year or even oftener, but sometimes not more than once in several years: and from hence is understood how it comes to pass that, among the pieces that are dated as well as marked, three or more different dates are sometimes found upon pieces impressed with the same mark, and again that different marks are found upon pieces bearing the same date. These marks are first observable upon the coins of king Edward the third, the words above quoted concerning those marks are from the indentures made with the lord Hastings, master and worker to king Edward the fourth; and the marks themselves continued to be stamped very conspicuously upon the moneys, till the coinage by the mill and screw was introduced and settled after the restoration in the year 1662. Since which time the moneys being made with far greater regularity and exactness than before, these marks have either been totally laid aside, or such only have been used, as are of a more secret nature, and only known to the officers and engravers concerned in the coinage: and indeed the constant practice that has ever since prevailed of dating all the several pieces, has rendered all such marks of much less consequence than before. I shall now subjoin to this note, as a specimen of the verdicts of the pix abovementioned, the record at large of one of those ver-

dicts in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of king Henry the sixth; as I received the same among others from my very worthy friend George Holmes, Esq; to whom I have been constantly obliged for his kind assistance, in the free communication of whatever has been to the purpose of my enquiries, in those valuable records that are entrusted to his care in the Tower of London.

Label. *Henricus Dei gratia, rex Anglie et Francie, et Dns. Hibernie, thesaurario et baronibus suis de Scaccario, Sal. Volentes diversis de causis certiorari super assais et probacionibus monetarum auri et argenti, per Willum Rus magistrum monetarum nostrarum infra Turrim nostram London et villam nostram Cales de novo factarum, coram vobis in Scaccario predicto, inter xvi. diem Octobris anno regni nostri decimo, et xxii. diem Octobris ultimo preteritum, factis et habitis ut dicitur: vobis mandamus, quod nos inde in cancellariam nostram, sub sigillo Scaccarii predicti, distinctè et apertè, sine dilatione, reddatis certiores, remittentes nobis hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Westm. i. die Nov. A<sup>o</sup> regni nostri undecimo.*

Selby.

Schedula. *ff. Tenores assaiorum, et probacionum monetarum auri et argenti, de quibus in brevi huic schedule consuto fit mentio, leguntur in hec verba.*

Cales Ass. Argenti. *Assaium argenti factum apud Westm. xxvii. die Octobris A<sup>o</sup> undecimo regis Henrici sexti, in presentia Humfr. ducis Gloucestrie, et venerabilium patrum Henrici archiep. Cantuar.*

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

61.

THE portcullis money of this queen, as it is commonly called, is next to be taken notice of; tho' it was not really current English coin: the pieces that are usually taken for crowns,

Q. ELIZ.  
1601.

*Cantuar. Jobis. archiep. Ebor. et Jobis. ep. Bath. et Wellen. cancellarii Anglie; Jobis. dni. le Scroop thesaurarii Anglie, mgri. Willi. Lyndwode custodis privati sigilli, nec non venerabilium patrum, Ph. Eliensis, Willi. Lincolnensis, et Jobis. Roffensis episcoporum; ac Humfr. com. Stafford, Jobis. com. Suff. Walteri dni. Hungerford, et Jobis. Iwyn militis, capitalis baron. de Scaccario: de quinqueformi monetâ argenti factâ in villâ Cales, inter ult. diem Octob. A° decimo regni regis hujus, et ult. diem Sept. A° undecimo ejusdem regis, utroque die computato: tempore viz. Ricardi Bokeland custodis Cambii regis in villâ predictâ, ac Willi. Rus magistri et operarii monete predictæ. Ubi apertâ pyxide, invente sunt in eâdem xii. scinchie continentes lxxix s. iiii d. numerando, sumptos de xxvi M. C. iiii XX. ii. lib. x unc. dimid. [26182 l. 10 unc. dim.] argenti ponder. ibid. monetat. et liberat. extra Cambium predictum per tempus predictum. Unde sunt de grossis xxii s. viii d. argenti numerando, de dim. grossis xxii s. viii d. argenti numerando, de sterlingis xxii s. viii d. argenti numerando, de obolis v s. viii d. argenti numerando, et de quadrantibus v s. viii d. argenti numerando. Omnibus quibus grossis, dim. grossis, sterlingis, obolis, et quadrantibus sic de scinchiis predictis intermixtis, factoque inde assaio in pondere, cum standardo dimidie libre Turris London. per Jobem. Hexham campsatorem et assaiatorem monete regis in eâdem Turri ad hoc juratum, inventum est quod xv s. argenti numerando concordant in pondere cum eodem standardo, et sic moneta predicta est equi ponderis, juxta formam convencionis in quibusdam indenturis*

*inter dnm. regem et predictum magistrum factis contente, irrotulatis in memorandis dicti anni undecimi inter recorda de termino scti. Michaelis, rot. sexto; in quâ convencione inter cetera continetur, quod moneta illa debet esse de allaiio veterum sterlingorum, et de pondere xxx solidorum sterlingorum, pro quâlibet librâ dictæ Turris; et quod si dicta moneta aliquando, casualiter per defectum operariorum, inventa fuerit fortior vel debilior per duos denarios pondere ad libram pondere, custos debet deliberare monetam illam tanquam bonam. De quibus eciam grossis, dimid. grossis, sterlingis, obolis, et quadrantibus, pro assaio ad ignem faciendo, sumuntur viii denarii numerando, viz. unum grossum, unum dimid. grossum, unus sterlingus, unus obolus, et duo quadrantes, factoque inde assaio per ignem, videlicet per libram subtilem ponderis, post scissuram eorundem, prout moris est, inde sumptam; inventum est post sumpcionem inde de igne, quod moneta predicta in assaio est melior de puro argento quam allaium veterum sterlingorum, per unum denarium pondere, ad libram pondere.*

*London Ass. Argenti. Item eodem die in presenciâ eorundem factum fuit assaium de quinqueformi monetâ argenti factâ in Turri London, inter xii diem Oct. A° decimo regis hujus, et ix diem Oct. A° undecimo ejusdem regis, utroque die computato, tempore viz. Henrici Somer custodis Cambii regis in eâdem Turri, et Willi. Rus mri. et operarii monete predictæ. Ubi apertâ pyxide invente sunt in eâdem xxii scinchie continentes xxx s. viii d. argenti numerando, sumptos de MCCCCxxvi lib. ix unc. x den. dim. ar-*

Q

genti

Q. ELIZ.  
1601.

crowns, half crowns, shillings, and half shillings, having only been coined for the use of the East India merchants, to be exported by them in their trade, and for their

*genti pondere ibid. monetat. et liberat. extra Cambium predictum, per tempus predictum. Unde sunt de grossis ix s. iv d. argenti numerando, de dimid. grossis vi s. ii d. argenti numerando, de sterlingis v s. vi d. argenti numerando, de obolis v s. argenti numerando. Quibus quidem grossis, dimid. grossis, sterlingis, obolis, et quadrantibus sic de scinchiis predictis sumptis intermixtis, factoque inde assaio in pondere, cum standardo dimidie libre dictæ Turris London. per predictum Jobem. Hexham campfatore et assaiatorem, inventum est quod xv s. inde numerando deficiunt in pondere ab eodem standardo per obolum pondere ad libram pondere. Sed dictus magister dicit se fore excusabilem, de eodem defectu invento in monetâ predictâ, per conventionem inde inter dnm. regem et ipsum magistrum factam, in indenturâ superius recitatâ plenius annotatam, in quâ inter cetera continetur, quod si moneta predictâ, casualiter per defectum operariorum, inventa fuerit fortior vel debilior, per duos denarios pondere ad libram pondere, custos debet deliberare monetam illam tanquam bonam. Et quoad allaium inventum est monetam predictam esse bonam et legalem.*

*Assaium Auri. Item eodem die in presencia eorundem, factum fuit assaium de monetâ auri factâ in Turri predictâ, inter xvi diem Oct. predicto A. decimo, et xxii diem Oct. dicto anno undecimo, utroque die computato, tempore videlicet dictorum custodis et magistri. Ubi aperta pyxide invente sunt in eadem xxxiii scinchie continentes xxii lib. vi sol. viii den. auri numerando, sumptos de DCliii lib. iv unc. xv den. vii gr. auri pondere ibid. monetat. et liberat.*

*extra Cambium predictum per tempus predictum. Unde sunt xxxvi grossi floreni dicti nobiles auri numerando, xxxvi mediocres floreni dicti dimid. nobiles auri numerando, et lii minores floreni dicti ferlingi auri numerando. Quibus quidem grossis florenis, mediocribus et minoribus florenis, sic de scinchiis predictis sumptis intermixtis, factoque inde assaio in pondere, cum standardo dimidie libre Turris predictæ, per campfatore et assaiatorem supradictum; inventum est quod viii lib. vi sol. viii den. ejusdem auri numerando, deficiunt in pondere de eodem standardo, per unum denarium pondere ad libram pondere. Sed dictus magister dicit se fore excusabilem de eodem defectu invento in monetâ predictâ, per conventionem inde inter dnm. regem et ipsum magistrum factam in indenturâ superius recitatâ plenius annotatam.*

Levesham.

It may here be remarked, that whereas there seems somewhat defective in this verdict, the assay of the goodness of the gold being omitted in the last article, the same is in another record of the same sort, and of the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the same king, thus expressed: *De quibus etiam grossis florenis, mediocribus et minoribus florenis, sumuntur postmodum pro assaio ad ignem, unus grossus florenus, unus mediocris florenus, et duo minores floreni: et inventi sunt iidem floreni post sumpcionem de igne sufficientes de puro auro et de debito alloio, juxta assaium inde factum per petram.* By which last words it appears, that the touchstone was also then used and regarded in these assays: the same is also mentioned in all the old indentures of the mint, where such stones

their conveniency struck to the respective weights of the Spanish *piastre*, or piece of eight *reas*, the half, the quarter, and the half quarter of the same. The weight of the Spanish piece of eight, was about 17 *d. wt.* and a half, and with that weight these pieces will be found to agree. They were severally impressed on one side, with the royal arms in a plain escutcheon under an imperial crown, between the letters E. and R. also crowned, and with the queen's style, the same as upon her five shilling pieces: and on the other side with a portcullis crowned, and her usual motto round about. All that I have met with of these pieces have had an annulet for their mint mark\*.

Q. ELIZ.  
1601.

I have seen besides of queen Elizabeth three pieces of silver of different sizes; the first of which, presented on one side her majesty's bust crowned and almost full-faced, with this legend VNVM. A. DEO. DVOBVS. SVSTINEO. and

stones are directed to be provided at the king's expence, together with touching needles of gold of diverse degrees of allay, and with which the severall parcels of gold to be tried, were respectively to be compared. The record of an assay of the silver money, by which the same was found faulty, in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the second, may be seen in *Madox's History of the Exchequer*, p. 199. and which record is so much the more remarkable, together with the proceedings therein mentioned, as the whole deficiency of the money complained of, by which it was found *nimis debilis et majoris allaii quam fuisse debuerat*, amounted only to the sum of 258 l. 5 s. 10 d. ob. in the coinage of 40730 l. whereby it appears that the said deficiency, being about one 157<sup>th</sup> part of the whole, was less than the remedy that has constantly been allowed to the ma-

sters and workers of the mint, in all the indentures extant from the 18<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the third, which is the oldest we now have any knowledge of.

\* Mr. Thomas Violet, in his book called *An Appeal to Cæsar*, printed in 1600. has treated largely of these pieces, of which he has there given the figure, by the name of *the silver coin that queen Elizabeth allowed the East India merchants to send to those Indies*. He has also in the same place represented the figures of three square weights, severally marked IN-DIA. VIII. TESTERNES. IV. TESTERNES. and II. TESTERNES. respectively: and which he there calls *The standard poyzes of the abovesaid coyne, remaining in his majesty's mynt, within the Tower of London, and in the custody of Sir William Parkhurst, warden of his majesty's said mynt.*

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1601.

on the other a sort of cypher of her name under a crown, with the date 1601, and the motto AFFLICTORVM. CONSERVATRIX. The second afforded the same type, but with only this inscription THE. PLEDGE. OF — A. PENNY. and the same date: the last had on one side the same cypher crowned, and on the other a crowned rose, with the words THE. PLEDGE. OF. — A. HALF. PENNY. These by their weights, compared with what was inscribed upon them concerning their values, could not have been designed for silver coins: and I have seen the same in copper also. I therefore apprehend they were only pattern pieces for copper pledges of two pennies, one pennie, and a half pennie respectively, which were intended to be coined about this time, but which do not appear to have been ever actually published. The pieces were very fair and beautiful, and the two larger had the mint mark of an emony or flower of six leaves. I have seen besides a very small tin piece, with a like cypher on the one side, and the queen's head without any legend on the other: this I look upon to have been a proof also for another sort of small token; and it may be here just observed by the bye, that when copper was first coined and published in the following reign, the pieces were not called farthings, but only farthing tokens, which the king “licensed any of his subjects to take at their good liking, but did not intend to make monies or coin that any one should be obliged or compelled to take\*.”

KING

\* I shall here add to the foregoing observations upon the coins of queen Elizabeth, the abstract of a paper containing an account of the whole quantity of money both gold and silver that was coined in her reign. This paper was communicated to me several years since by my honoured kinsman Sir Andrew Fountaine, now

warden of his majesty's mint, from his own library; and it was, as I apprehend, an old transcript of those accounts collected by archbishop Williams, that were quoted by Mr. Lowndes in his *Essay for the amendment of silver coins*; and that were, as he informs us, burned some time before among other curious collections

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

65

KING James the sixth of Scotland, but the first of Great Britain, was proclaimed king of England, *etc.* the same day that queen Elizabeth died: and upon the news of his accession left Holyrood-house on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April,

JAMES I.  
1603.

lections in the archives at Westminster. By which archives are to be understood, as I am told, the manuscripts formerly kept at one end of the library belonging to the Abbey church, and which were unfortunately there destroyed by a fire that happened about fifty years since in a part of the old school, that was contiguous to that end of the library.

*A brief note of all the moneys of gold and silver, coined in the time of QUEEN ELIZABETH, with the true value thereof in current money.*

	l.	s.	d.
Coined in sterling silver money in the mints in the Tower of London, from the year 1558 to the year 1572, in the time of Thomas Stanley and Thomas Fleetwood under treasurers, in weight 549,644 l. 0 oz. 10 d. wt. making at 3 l. the pound weight	1,648,932	02	06
More, from 1572 to 1581, in the time of John Lonison master and worker, in weight 255,338 l. 2 oz. 8 d. wt. 7 gr. making at the same rate	766,014	12	00 3 q.
More, from 1581 to 1601, in the time of Sir Richard Martyn master and worker, in weight 670,331 l. 2 oz. 10 d. wt. making at the same rate	2,010,993	12	06
More, from Sept. 1601, to 31 March 1603, in the time of the same master, in weight 63,890 l. 7 oz. making at 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight	198,060	16	02
Coined in March 3 <sup>o</sup> Eliz. in Irish moneys of 11 ounces fine, in weight 2,977 l. making at 3 l. the pound weight	8,931	00	00

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The whole sum of sterling silver coined in the queen's time was in weight 1,542,181 l. 0 oz. 8 d. wt. 7 gr. making in money

Coined in base Irish money in March 1<sup>o</sup> Eliz. of 3 ounces fine silver and 9 ounces of allay, in weight 19,828 l. worth in sterling money

More of like base money in the time of Sir Richard Martyn, in weight 89,844 l. 10 oz. 15 d. wt. worth in sterling money

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So that the whole value of the silver money coined in the queen's time, amounted to

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## A T A B L E O F

JAMES I. April, and arrived at Whitehall on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
1603. May following, 1603. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of the same month he renewed the indentures with the master and worker of his mint Sir Richard Martyn, for the coining of new moneys, the same both in goodness and in weight, as those directed by the abovementioned indentures of the 43<sup>d</sup> of queen Elizabeth: and it may be here again remember'd once for all, that all the silver moneys, since coined in England down to this day, have constantly been made, both in standard and in weight, every way conformable to the same indentures.

KING James's coins of silver, were also like the last coins of queen Elizabeth, CROWNS OF FIVE SHILLING PIECES, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALF SHILLINGS,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Coined in fine gold money in the mint in the Tower of London, from 1558 to 1601, in weight 12,201 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>oz.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> 22 <i>gr.</i> which made in current money at the rate of 36 <i>l.</i> the pound weight	439,260	02	09
More, from 1601 to 1603, in weight 35 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>oz.</i> 17 <i>d.</i> 8 <i>gr.</i> which made in current money at 36 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> the pound weight	1,292	06	00 37.
<hr/>			
The sum total of all the fine gold coined in the queen's time, was in weight 12,237 <i>l.</i> 0 <i>oz.</i> 18 <i>d.</i> 6 <i>gr.</i> and made in current money	440,552	08	09 37.
<hr/>			
Coined in crown gold money in the mint in the Tower of London, from 1558 to 1601, in weight 20,086 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>oz.</i> 18 <i>d.</i> 17 <i>gr.</i> which made in current money at 33 <i>l.</i> the pound weight	332,848	16	05 27.
More from 1601 to 1603, in weight 643 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>oz.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> 21 <i>gr.</i> which made in current money at 33 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> the pound weight	21,737	03	01 27.
<hr/>			
The sum total of all the crown gold coined in the queen's time, was in weight 10,730 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>oz.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> 14 <i>gr.</i> and made in current money	354,585	19	07
<hr/>			
And the true value of all the gold and silver moneys coined in the time of queen Elizabeth, amounted to	5,513,717	11	01 17.
<hr/>			

PIECES

PIECES OF TWO PENNIES, PENNIES, and HALF PENNIES. The five shilling pieces first coined had on one side the king's figure on horseback, crowned and in armour with his drawn sword in his right hand, the housings of his horse adorned with a crowned rose; and his style round about was IACOBVS. D. G. ANG. SCO. FRAN. ET. HIB. REX. The same pieces had on their reverse the royal arms in an escutcheon handsomely garnished, with the motto EXVRGAT. DEVS. DISSIPENTVR. INIMICI. but these arms were different from what had yet appeared upon the English money, France and England being now placed quarterly in the first and fourth quarters of the shield, Scotland in the second, and Ireland in the third. The half crowns were every way like the five shilling pieces, except in the abridgment of some of the words in the king's style. The shillings and half shillings had on one side the king's profile bust crowned and in armour, with his style as before, and the respective figures XII. and VI. behind his head to denote the value of the pieces: and on the other side they had the royal arms in a plain escutcheon with the former motto. The two pennie pieces and pennies were impressed with the king's head, like the shillings and half shillings, but with the figures II. and I. placed respectively behind it, the legend I. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. and they bore on the other side the royal arms in a plain escutcheon without any inscription. The half pennies were exactly like those of queen Elizabeth, with the portcullis on the one side and the cross on the other; being only to be distinguished by the mint marks discovering the time of their coinage.

ALL these several pieces were marked with a thistle flower, till the 22<sup>d</sup> of May 1604, and from that time with a *fleur de lis* till the 11<sup>th</sup> of the following November, presently after which the alterations to be next mentioned

took

JAMES I.  
1603.

JAMES I. 1603. took place. It may also be observed that, of all the coins of this reign, none are dated but the half shillings, all which have the several years of their mintage placed over the escutcheon of the royal arms upon their respective reverses.

1604. THERE was a proclamation issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, in the second year of the king, wherein were particularly described both the gold and the silver coins then published, in consequence of the new indentures made with Sir Richard Martyn a few days before: and by this proclamation it appears that the words MAG.' BRIT'. were from thenceforward to be put into the king's style, instead of those of ANG'. SCO'. inscribed upon the former crowns, half crowns, shillings, and half shillings; and that the motto QVÆ. DEVS. CONIVNXIT. NEMO. SE-PARET. was instead of the former EXVRGAT. DEVS. *etc.* to be impressed upon the reverses of the same several pieces. The two pennie pieces were at the same time ordered to be stamped on one side with a rose crowned, and on the other side with a thistle flower likewise crowned; the pennies with a rose and a thistle flower not crowned; and both pieces with I. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. on the one side and TVEATVR. VNITA. DEVS. on the other: but the half pennies were only to have the rose on the one side and the thistle on the other without any inscription. After which the proclamation concluded with the following words: "All which several  
 " coins, both of gold and silver, we do hereby publish,  
 " declare and authorize to be, amongst others heretofore  
 " used, our moneys current for this our kingdom of  
 " Great Britain, to be used and received by all our  
 " loving subjects thereof, in all receipts and payments,  
 " and in all manner of trafficking and dealing between  
 " man and man, at the several rates and values con-  
 " tained

“ tained in the table hereunder written, expressing their JAMES I.  
 “ true values and weights, according to the account of 1604.  
 “ the mint-men of both nations.”

THESE several pieces of silver did accordingly continue to be minted, without any other material alteration \*, during all the following years of the king's reign: and the several mint-marks then stamped upon the moneys whether of gold or silver were; till the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1605 the former mark of the *fleur de lis*, to the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1606 the rose, to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1607 the escallop-shell, to the 11<sup>th</sup> of November following the bunch of grapes, to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1609 the coronet, to the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1610 the key, to the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1611 the bell, to the 22<sup>d</sup> of May 1612 the mollet, to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1613 the tower, to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October following the trefoil, to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1615 the cinqfoil, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1616 the ton, to the 23<sup>d</sup> of August 1617 the book, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1618 the half moon, to the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1619 the plain cross, to the 20<sup>th</sup> of August following the saltire cross, to the 23<sup>d</sup> of June 1620 the spur-rowel, to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1621 the rose, to the 3<sup>d</sup> of July 1623 the thistle-flower, to 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1624 the *fleur de lis*, and from that time to the king's death the trefoil. But it may be noted that, whereas silver was excessively scarce during some part of this reign, and the coinages of it then very small, it has happen'd that no silver moneys were ever marked

\* I have observed this only variation from the common type of king James's moneys above described: that upon the crown pieces and half crown pieces that are marked with a thistle flower, that have MAG. BRIT. in the king's style, and that were confe-

quently coined about the year 1621; the howlings of the king's horse adorned with the thistle flower crowned, instead of the crowned rose, that appears upon all his other pieces coined in England of the same denominations.

JAMES I.  
1604.

with the half moon or the saltire cross abovementioned.

THIS scarcity of silver was the subject of much consideration and enquiry at the time: several proclamations were issued against the exportation of it, and several schemes were proposed for the drawing it into the mint. It was particularly advised that the weight of the money should be lessened: and this proceeded so far, that directions were actually given to the attorney-general, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1619, to prepare new indentures of the mint, whereby the pound weight Troy of standard silver should be coined into 66 shillings. But these directions were soon after recalled, and the designed alteration of the silver coin was ordered to be suspended for twelve months; upon a report made to the council, the 25<sup>th</sup> of the following April, by several eminent merchants, whose advice had been desired in a consultation with the ministers on that occasion. This intended alteration does not appear after this to have been thought of any more: and indeed silver about the same time began to come again to the mint, in greater plenty than it had done for some years \* before.

THERE was a good quantity of money coined in this reign, of the silver refined from the lead of the mines in the principality of Wales: and all the pieces of this money, of which I have seen the crown, the

\* It does not appear what was the occasion of this change, but the fact was this: that in the four years from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1617, to the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1620, there was only coined at the tower in silver money the sum of 1070*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* and that in the four following years to the 31<sup>st</sup>

of March 1625, there was coined the sum of 205,500*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* This last sum is however little more than was coined in the last one year and a half of queen Elizabeth: during whose whole reign there was coined in silver above 100,000*l.* a year, one year with another.

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

half crown, and the shilling, were severally distinguished by the representation of the Welsh feathers, placed over the royal arms on their respective reverses. As those were also that were coined of this silver, during the first twelve years of the following reign, before the mint was purposely set up for the coinage of the same\*.

JAMES I.  
1604.

\* The whole quantity of the money coined in the reign of king James the first, cannot, as Mr. Lowndes has observed in his *Essay*, be known directly from the books of the mint: by reason that, many of the records and papers of that office, having been destroyed or embezzled during the time of the great rebellion, the memorials of all transactions there, older than the restoration of king Charles the second, are now either lost, or remain in a very imperfect condition. Yet may a tolerable account be collected of this matter by the assistance of other materials: and I have accordingly drawn out a memorandum, which will, I hope, be found sufficiently exact; partly from the before

mentioned paper of archbishop Williams, wherein an account is given of the coinage during the first 13 years of the king; partly from a certificate delivered to the council the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1618, in which is contained an account of the weight of the gold and silver coined in the several years from his 9<sup>th</sup> to his 15<sup>th</sup>; and partly from some extracts of the comptrollers accounts of his latter years, communicated to me formerly by the late John Conduit esq. then master and worker of his majesty's mint. By which several particulars it appears, that there was coined from the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1603, to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1625,

	l.	s.	d.
In angel gold, at the several rates of 36 l. 10 s. 40 l. 10 s. 44 l. 11 s. and 44 l. 10 s. the pound weight: to the value of	32,093	17	09
In crown gold, at the several rates of 33 l. 10 s. 37 l. 4 s. 40 l. 18 s. 4 d. 3 q. and 41 l. the pound weight: to the value of	3,634,296	01	02
	3,666,389	18	11
In sterling silver, at 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight	1,641,004	13	03
In like silver for Ireland; to the sterling value of	124,957	01	07
	1,765,961	14	10
And the total value of all the gold and silver moneys coined in the reign of king James, exclusive of some base moneys coined for Ireland, and of which I have seen no account; amounted to the value of	5,432,351	13	09

T H E R E

JAMES I.  
1604.

THERE were in this reign several good orders made, for the preventing of the coin from being unlawfully impaired and diminished: some of which I cannot help here taking notice of, although they had a more immediate relation to the gold than to the silver money. Several proclamations were published against the uttering of such diminished coin, whether domestic or foreign: and allowance and direction was by them given to refuse peremptorily, and to cut or bore all pieces of gold offered in payment, that should want of their due weight more than certain remedies; which were therein specified to be, four grains and a half upon a piece of thirty shillings, three grains upon a piece of twenty shillings, two grains and a half upon a piece of fifteen shillings, two grains upon a piece of ten shillings, one grain upon a piece of five shillings, and half a grain upon a piece of two shillings and six pennies. This indeed had before been ordered in the time of queen Elizabeth, but the execution of it was now more strongly enforced by new proclamations: and by one particularly of the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1619, the former remedies were confirmed upon the old pieces; but upon the new then published they were yet farther restrained, and allowed to be no more than three grains, two grains, one grain and a half, one grain, and half a grain respectively, on the pieces of the forementioned values, from thirty to five shillings. But this not being yet sufficiently observed, and the inconvenience increasing, a further regulation was made by another proclamation of the 4<sup>th</sup> of the following February 1619: whereby all persons were authorized to receive two pennies a grain, for every grain any pieces of gold offered them in payment should want of their due weight, over and above the former allowed remedies; and such pieces were upon those terms still allowed

allowed to be current, so they did not want as much again of their full weight as the allowed remedies amounted to: but all such pieces as wanted more than the said double remedies, were still ordered to be refused without redemption, and the persons to whom they were offered, were directed to bore the same, rendering them when so bored to the owners thereof again, as in a former proclamation of the 29<sup>th</sup> of queen Elizabeth \*. And farther, that all persons might be encouraged to send

JAMES I.  
1604.

\* The proclamation here referred to, was dated at Richmond the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, 29<sup>o</sup>. Eliz. and was entitled, *A Proclamation for reforming the deccits, in diminishing the value of the coins of gold current within the queen's majesty's dominions: and for remedying the losses that might grow by receiving thereof, being diminished.* The former part of which ran as followeth:

“ Forasmuch as great part of our monies of gold of our realm of England, and such gold of foreign countries which now are current within our said realm, are by the sinister and unlawful doings of wicked persons, not only carried out of our realm to foreign parts, and there by divers means diminished of their value, and from thence returned hither, and paid in lieu of lawful coin for the commodities of our countries, and some other of them embased, by clipping, southering, or other unlawful practices of their due fineness, so that both the one sort and the other, by the means aforesaid, are brought much inferiour to their first and true value and goodness: but besides that many false pieces be counterfeited, in foreign parts,

“ of the said coins, whereby great and intollerable loss and diminution of the riches of our realm doth daily grow and increase. Wherefore we minding, as necessity requireth, the speedy remedy of the premisses, do straitly forbid, charge, and command, that no manner of person or persons within this our realm of England, from and after the proclamation hereof in any county of our realm, do take, or receive, or deliver in payment, any false counterfeit pieces of any coin of gold current within our said realm, or any piece of the same coin being southerd, or otherwise unlawfully embased, or lacking of the just weight thereof, over the the remedies and abatements severally expressed, and to be allowed in that behalf. And if any such piece of coin lacking of its true weight above the remedies and abatements hereafter expressed, and if any such counterfeit piece as is aforesaid, or any piece of coin of gold southerd or unlawfully embased, shall be offered in payment: We will, that it shall be lawful to every person and persons, to whom such offer in payment shall be

T

made

JAMES I.  
1604.

send in their light gold to be new coined at the mint, the king was pleased, by the two last proclamations, to reduce for the term of twelve months then next following, the charge then paid for coinage, which was twenty six shillings and four pennies upon every pound weight of gold, besides some gain by shearing at the mint, to fifteen shillings only. Besides which, it was also “ published and declared that, to the end that all that “ brought any gold to be coined at the mint might “ have a full return thereof without diminution, it was “ his majesty’s exprefs will and pleasure, that the officers “ of the mint should from thenceforth, according to the “ antient law and custom of this realm, ratified by act “ of parliament in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of “ king Edward the third, and in the ninth year of the “ reign of king Henry the fifth \*, receive gold and silver “ into

“ made, not only to refuse to take “ the same in payment, but also to “ strike a hole at his pleasure, in “ every of the said pieces so offered “ in payment, which shall be sou- “ thered or unlawfully embased, or “ which shall lack of their just “ weight above the remedies here- “ after following: and to cut every “ of the said countersits into pieces; “ rendering those so stricken through, “ and the pieces of the others so cut “ in sunder, then presently after- “ wards to the owners thereof again. “ And if any controversy shall hap- “ pen to arise betwixt the parties “ or any of their friends, or favourers “ then present, in or about such “ striking through, or cutting in “ pieces of any of the premisses; “ that then forthwith, he that shall “ offer any of the said unlawtul and “ forbidden monies in payment, and

“ he that shall receive the same, “ shall peaceably repair together to “ our next justice of the peace, “ mayor, bayliff, or other chief officer “ of that place; who then without “ delay, taking one other assistant of “ knowledg unto him, shall judge “ of the monies in controversy, and “ shall allow of those that are allow- “ able, and on the contrary shall “ presently execute that which is “ here above appointed.”

The remaining part of the procla-  
mation contains directions for balances  
and weights, to be provided by the  
warden of the mint, for the use of  
such as should have occasion to exa-  
mine the coins before spoken of.

“ \* It is accorded and assented, that “ the moneyors and other wardens “ and ministers of the money, shall “ receive plate of gold and silver by “ the

“ into the mint by weight ; and should deliver out the JAMES I.  
 “ moneys thereof when it should be made, by weight 1604.  
 “ or by number, at the election of those which should  
 “ receive the same, without delay or difficulty.”

KING James deceased at Theobald's, on Monday the CHAR. I.  
 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 1625 : and king Charles his son was 1625.  
 proclaimed the same day.

HIS majesty, on the first of the following April, granted a commission to Sir Edward Villiers, warden, and Sir Randal Cranfeild, master and worker of his mint ; to continue the coinage, according to the last indentures made by the king his father, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of his reign.

THE silver moneys made by virtue of this commission, and afterwards by virtue of indentures between the king and Sir Robert Harley, master and worker, the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, in the second year of his reign, were of the same values and denominations as those of the late king : that is to say, CROWNS, OR FIVE SHILLING PIECES, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALF SHILLINGS, PIECES OF TWO PENNIES, PENNIES, AND HALF PENNIES. The crowns and half crowns representing on one side the king on horseback, crowned and in armour with his drawn sword, CAROLVS. D. G. MAG. BRIT. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. and having upon the reverse, the royal arms, the same as in

“ the weight. And in the same man-  
 “ ner shall deliver the money when  
 “ it shall be made, by weight and  
 “ not by number, without any tar-  
 “ rying.” *Stat. 25<sup>o</sup> Edw. III. Cap.*  
 20.

“ To avoid the deceits and perils  
 “ which long have continued within

“ the realm, by washers, clippers,  
 “ and counterfeiters of the money —  
 “ none of the king's liege people shall  
 “ receive any money of English gold  
 “ in payment, but upon the king's  
 “ weight thereupon ordained.” *Stat.*  
 9<sup>o</sup>. *Hen. V. Cap. 11.*

See also the other Statutes of the  
 same year. *Cap. 1, 2, 3, 4.*

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1625.

the last reign, in an escutcheon garnished, with this motto, CHRISTO. AVSPICE. REGNO. round about.

THE shillings and half shillings had on one side the king's profile head crowned, with the respective figures XII and VI behind it, and on the reverse the royal arms in a plain escutcheon: style and motto, the same as on the larger pieces. The two-penny pieces and pennies were at first like those of king James: except that instead of having the rose on the one side and the thistle on the other, these had the rose on both sides, with the style C. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPINA. and the motto IVS. THRONVM. FIRMAT. But these were some time after laid aside, and in their room were coined small pieces, with the king's bust, and the respective numerals II and I behind it. CAROLVS. D. G. M. B. F. ET. H. REX. on the one side; and the royal arms on an oval shield, IVSTITIA. THRONVM. FIRMAT. on the reverse. The half pennies had only the rose on both sides, without any inscription.

THERE was, a few years after king Charles's accession, some variation made in the type of the larger money: the royal arms which had hitherto been placed, on the reverse of the crowns and half crowns, in a garnished escutcheon, were from thence forward exhibited on an oval shield somewhat ornamented; and the initial letters C. R. were sometimes, but not constantly, placed over the same. The like alteration was also made upon some of the shillings and half shillings, but by much the greater number were coined as formerly, quite down to the king's death. It may further be noted of the last mentioned two pieces, that they presented the king's bust dressed according to the fashion of the times, those first minted shewing him in a stiff ruff, the next in a limber one, and the last in a broad falling band: besides which he was, upon those of the first sort, drawn in his  
parliament

parliament robes with the collar of the order; whereas those ornaments were afterwards constantly omitted, and he was represented as in armour upon all his later coins. CHAR. I.  
1625.

THERE is not indeed in general, in king Charles's money, that sameness and perfect regularity, which is so conspicuous in the coins of the king his father: the gravers have allowed themselves great liberties, and some of them have but very indifferently performed their parts, though it must be acknowledged that others of them have produced very beautiful and good money. Among these I cannot omit taking notice of a fair shilling, coined out of the Welsh silver about the year 1635, upon which the letters are gracefully placed, the circle within them is omitted, and the whole is so well ordered, as to be scarce inferiour to the milled money.

NONE of the coins of king Charles the first, I mean of those I have been hitherto speaking of, and which were coined in the tower of London, were dated: yet may the several times of their mintage be known, by the following account of the mint marks used in his reign. And it appears by the register of the several tryals of the pix, that the moneys coined from the beginning of his majesty's reign to the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1625, were marked with a trefoil; those from that time to the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1626 with a *fleur de lis*, to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1627 first with a blackmoor's-head and then with a long cross, to the 3<sup>d</sup> of July 1628 with a castle, to the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1629 with an anchor, to the 23<sup>d</sup> of June 1630 with a heart, to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1631 with the feathers, to the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 1632 with a rose, to the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1633 with a harp, to the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1634 with a portcullis, to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1635 with a bell, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1636 with a crown, to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1638 with a ton, to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1639 with an

U anchor

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1625.

anchor, to the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1640 with a triangle, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1641 with a star; to the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1643 with a triangle in a circle, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1644 with the letter (.P.), to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1645 with the letter (.R.), to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1645 with an eye, to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1646 with the sun, and from thence to the king's death with a scepter\*.

WHAT has hitherto been said relates only to king Charles's moneys of silver, coined in the tower of London: but there was besides a great variety of pieces struck

\* By an account which Mr. Lowndes has published in his *Essay*, the silver money coined in the reign of king Charles the First, and by which we must only understand the silver money regularly coined in the tower of London, amounted to the sum of 8,776,544 *l.* 10 *s.* 3 *d.* But of the gold there also coined during the same time, I am not able to give so exact an account. All I can say is, that, by a paper I saw in the hands of the late Mr. Conduit, the weight of the angel gold coined from the beginning of the king's reign to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1642, and which was coined into angels only, was that of 284 *l.* 5 *oz.* 9 *dwt.* 9 *gr.* which made in money then current, at the rate of 44 *l.* 10 *s.* the pound weight, the sum of 12,658 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.* *ob.* And it appears by the accounts of the pix, that there has been no angel gold coined in England since that time. It also further appeared by the same paper, that there was coined in crown gold from the king's accession to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1641, in weight 68,832 *l.* 11 *oz.* 11 *dwt.* 4 *gr.* and by two other papers purporting to be the accounts of Sir Ralph Freeman and Sir Thomas Aylesbury, from the 1<sup>st</sup>

of August 1641 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1643, and of Sir Robert Harley from the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1643 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1646, that there was coined during that time in crown gold the weight of 7052 *l.* 2 *oz.* 11 *dwt.* 1 *gr.* To which last weight, if we add proportionably for the four months elapsed between the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1641, and for the thirty four months between the end of these accounts and the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1648: we cannot very greatly mistake in supposing the weight of the crown gold, coined from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1641, to the time of the king's death, to have been of about 11,826 *l.* Which added to the former quantity, will make for the whole weight of the crown gold coined in this reign about 80,659 pounds: and which reduced into money, at the rate of 41 *l.* to the pound weight, produces of the same 3,307,019 *l.* To which if we add the value before given of the angel gold, and of the silver coined in the same time, we shall find that the whole sum in gold and silver coined in the tower of London, during the reign of king Charles the first, did not in current money amount to less than about 12,096,220 *l.* sterling.

elsewhere

elsewhere during the course of his reign, particularly CHAR. I.  
1625. HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALVES, and QUARTERS at York; these were very beautiful, and were marked with a lion *passant gardant*, and the word EBOR. to denote their place of mintage. There were also some differences in the pieces of this sort, tho' of the same denomination: some of them having the arms crowned and some not; some having those arms on an oval shield garnished, and others on a plain escutcheon placed upon the old cross *fleurie*.

IT is said, that a mint was erected at York, when the great earl of Strafford was president of the North; which office he entered upon about the beginning of the year 1629: so that these pieces are posterior to that time, and were not improbably coined, some of them at least, when the king was at York, in his magnificent and memorable progress into Scotland, in the year 1633.

THERE were also other pieces very fair, and that carried all the appearance of having been coined by the mill and screw: crowns, half crowns, shillings, and half shillings, marked either with an anchor or a rose and a small .B. There was also gold coined with the same mark of a rose and the letter .B. standing for the name of the artist, Nicholas Briot, by whom the several dies for this sort of money were prepared.

THIS person, who had been chief graver of the moneys of France, and who was esteemed the ablest man of his time, came over into England upon some disgust in the year 1628: where he was much encouraged and countenanced by the king, who, liking his performances, did immediately employ him to make such designs of his own image, as might serve for his coins both of gold and silver. His majesty also assigned him lodgings in the mint, and gave him a licence to coin money there,  
agreeable

CHAR. I.  
1625.

agreeable to the indentures then subsisting: and it is highly probable that, during that time, he there coined the several pieces abovementioned, which by their marks were made to be pixed and examined in a regular mint. But whether they were kept by themselves, or underwent the common tryal with the other moneys, is now very uncertain: if the latter is true, they by their marks belonged to the years 1629, and 1631 or 1632. Whether any of the moneys between those several dates, and which were marked with a heart or the feathers, had also the letter .B. upon them, I am not able to say: but in general not only the pieces stamped with those marks, but with those also that came in use in the next following years, were all much in the style of Briot's money, and appeared as taken from his designs.

BRIOT went afterwards with the king into Scotland, where he was employed both in making medals, and dies and puncheons for the coin of that kingdom, which I shall have occasion to take some notice of in another place: but how long he resided there does not appear, only I find, in the continuation of Mr. Rymer's *Fœdera*, that he had a grant of the office, *unius capitalis sculptoris ferrorum monetæ infra turrim London*, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 1633. What he particularly did after that time, I have no account; but the author of the *Traité historique des monoyes de France*, Mr. le Blanc, says of him, that after his coming over into England, *on ne manqua pas de se servir de ses machines, et de faire par son moyen les plus belles monoyes du monde.*

THE same author tells us, that the great chancellor Seguier caused the repeal of the several orders that had aggrieved Briot in France: when it is reasonable to suppose that he returned home, since we are told that his new method of coining was now introduced there, and established,

established, notwithstanding the fresh opposition it again met with: and that the old way of coinage by the hammer was totally abolished in that kingdom, in the year 1645. CHAR. I.  
1625.

WHILST Briot remained here, he made proposals concerning his new way of coining, and models or pattern pieces as it seems for a new sort of money, much more like that which is now in use: and which it is likely, if the troubles coming on had not prevented it, would have been then established, together with the general use of the mill, and the press or screw.

OF these pattern pieces I have seen one about the size of a modern half crown, stamped both in gold and silver. It was marked with the same small B. and exhibited on the one side the king's profile head bare, with long locks, and his usual style: and on the reverse was the royal escutcheon garnished and crowned, between the crowned letters C and R, with the motto AUSPICIIS. REX. MAGNE. TVIS. the date 1630, and the figure of St. George on horseback killing the dragon, in the place of a mint mark. I have also seen small pieces of the size of half groats, with the same mark of a small B. having the king's head bare and turned the contrary way; style as usual, and on the reverse two linked C's under a crown, with the motto FIDEI. DEFENSOR. Others had on the reverse a scepter and a trident tyed together in saltire, REGIT. VNVS. VTROQVE. and both these I look upon as patterns for some of this intended new coin. Another pattern of the same sort, and probably designed for a shilling, was that mentioned by Mr. Evelyn, in his *Discourse on medals*, having the king's head laureat on the one side and three crowns tyed together VNITAE. INVICTAE. on the other. But the piece mentioned by the same gentleman, and which resembles a crown piece, with N. BRIOT. F. under the king's horse, the date 1628

CHAR. I. on the reverse, and the motto, O. REX. DA. FACILEM.  
1625. CVRSVM. — ATQVE. AVDACIBVS. ANNVE. COEPTIS.

I take to have been one of the first proofs of his art, upon his coming over, before he was licensed to make pieces exactly agreeable to the current coin\*.

ALL that I have seen of the abovementioned crowns and half crowns, marked with an anchor or a rose, and that looked like milled money, had on their reverses the royal arms in an oval shield, garnished and crowned with an imperial crown, between the initial letters C. and R. crowned also; and the lesser pieces of the same sorts had the same arms, but in a plain escutcheon placed upon a cross *fleurie*.

THERE were also two-penny pieces and pennies like the common ones, but more neatly coined, and marked with the same small .B. under the king's head: these I therefore take to have been the work of the same artist, and to have been coined in the tower with the last mentioned larger moneys.

1637. IN the year 1637, being the 13<sup>th</sup> of the king's reign, a mint was established on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, in the castle of Aberistwith, in the county of Cardigan and principality of Wales: for the refining and coining the silver drawn from the mines in that principality. And all the bullion that was coined in that mint, was ordered "to be stamped on both sides with the feathers, for a clear dif-

\* I have besides the coins abovementioned, seen a very odd piece, about the size of a quarter shilling or groat, marked with a bell, and a rose behind the king's head, as on the moneys of queen Elizabeth. The reverse had the arms on an oval shield with the date 1634, and the motto WAS SALVS. REIPUBLICAE. SVPREMA. LEX. What this piece was intended

for I cannot certainly say; but I observe the bell was the mark in the tower from June 1634 to June 1635: from whence I should conjecture it was probably a proof for a groat or quarter shilling, proposed to be coined there about that time, as pieces of those denominations actually were about three years after, at Aberistwith.

“ference

“ference from the other moneys:” and Thomas Bushell CHAR. I.  
1637. esq. was appointed master and worker of the same.

By Mr. Bushell's indentures of the same 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1637, he was to coin there, half crowns, shillings, half shillings, two-penny pieces, and pennies, of the same value as those coined in the tower of London: and I have accordingly seen the shilling and half shilling perfectly agreeable to the foregoing direction, the Welsh feathers being placed on one side just before the king's head, and over the royal arms on the other. I have also seen the two-penny piece and the penny, but those had the feathers only on the reverse, where they filled the whole area of the piece: and these I take to have been all the sorts of money at first coined in this mint. But on the 22<sup>d</sup> of October in the same year 1637, a commission was directed to Mr. Bushell, for the adding of GROATS, PIECES OF THREE PENNIES, and HALFPENNIES to his other coins: these I have also seen, the two larger pieces, except in size and in the numerals IIII. and III. behind the king's head, exactly resembling the half shillings; and the half pennies having only a rose on the one side and the feathers on the other. The general mint-mark of these pieces was an open book; and I find, by a memorandum I have seen at the mint in the tower of London, that the book was the mark used by Mr. Bushell from the first erection of his mint to the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1641, when I suppose there was a trial of his *pix*. There are some but very few of these pieces, and those I believe only groats and quarter shillings, that are not marked with a book, but either with a crown or a *fleur de lis*. Whether these marks, or either of them, came to be used at Aberistwith after the before spoken of 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1641, or whether they were marks used after the removal of the mint, I am entirely ignorant: but

CHAR. I.  
1637.

but it is certain the first mark of the open book was some time after resumed, as it occurs upon half shillings and groats, minted in the year 1643 and 1644, and of the forts generally supposed to have been coined at Oxford.

1642.

IN the year 1642, when the king was at Nottingham, just upon the breaking out of the civil war, the earl of Clarendon informs us, that he received amongst other loans, from the two Univerfitys “all, or very near all  
“ their plate, and a considerable sum of money, which  
“ was sent as a present to his majesty, from several of  
“ of the heads of colleges out of their own particular  
“ stores;—all which came safe to Nottingham, at the  
“ time when there appeared no more expectation of a  
“ treaty, and contributed much to raising the dejected  
“ spirits of the place.” That “the plate was presently  
“ weighed out, and delivered to the several officers, who  
“ were entrusted to make levies of horse or foot, and  
“ who received it as money,” and that “the rest was  
“ carefully preserved to be carried with the king, when he  
“ should remove from thence; secret orders being sent  
“ to the officers of the mint, to be ready to come to his  
“ majesty as soon as he should require them, which he  
“ meant to do as soon as he should find himself in a  
“ place convenient.” So much of this plate as was then  
coined was probably minted at York; and the king soon  
after removing to Shrewsbury erected a mint there, in  
which, as we learn from the forementioned noble person,  
and from the historical collections of Mr. Rushworth, he  
melted down and coined the remainder of the plate that  
had been brought from the univcrfitys, together with  
“ all his own for the service of his household, which  
“ made other men think, theirs was the less worth the  
“ preserving.”

THIS

THIS mint was under the direction of Mr. Bushell, as appears by a recital of his services to the king at Shrewsbury, in a commission I have seen directed to him some time after: it might therefore be looked upon as a removal of his mint, or of some of the workmen of it at least, from Aberistwith. But whether the money therein coined had any particular mark by which it might be distinguished, I have received no information: it did not however continue very long, and the earl of Clarendon tells us, “ it was indeed more for reputation than use, for, for want of workmen and instruments, they could not coin a thousand pounds a week.”

THE king removing from Shrewsbury, and having fought, on Sunday the 23<sup>d</sup> of October, the battle at Edgehill near Keynton in Warwickshire, came on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month to Oxford; where the several colleges presented him with all that remained of their plate, and with all the money left in their several treasuries. And his majesty having soon after removed the officers and workmen of his mint from Aberistwith to Oxford, they there began, about the end of this year 1642, to coin in New-Inn hall, under the direction of Sir William Parkhurst and Thomas Bushell esq. \*

*Tuesday, 2 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1642. The Mint removed from Shrewsbury into Oxford & set up in New Inn. (Appendix to Hearne's Antiquities of Dunstable) 1643.*

IN

\* The earl of Clarendon seems to represent the first loan made by the universities to the king, to have consisted chiefly of plate, and the last now made by the university of Oxford to have been altogether money. But it is more probable from the following extracts of papers and memorandums still remaining in that university, that their first benevolence was principally money; and that their plate was not, at least the greatest part of it, presented him till after his coming to

Oxford. Which is also more agreeable to his immediate removal of the mint thither.

These extracts, &c. were very kindly communicated by the reverend and learned Francis Wise, B. D. of Trinity college in Oxford: who has farther informed me there is very little more to be found at the university relating to these affairs; excepting only two or three other receipts for plate delivered, to the same purpose, as the undermentioned receipt to the rector and fellows

Y

lows

CHAR. I.  
1642.

IN this mint there was coined in the following years, if we may judge by the frequency of the pieces still extant, a large quantity of money, both of gold and silver. And as this mint was managed and wrought by the officers and moneyers that came from Aberistwith, and was itself considered as the same mint removed, all the money that was coined in it was marked on both sides with the  
Welsh

lows of Exeter college. The great danger of being called upon by the parliament, as the vice-chancellor and several heads of houses had already actually been, having made all people very careful what they entered and committed to writing in those times, concerning such matters: and for the same reason, in all probability, all the records of the proceedings of the mint at Oxford were secreted and destroyed. So that no more is now known about those transactions, than what is to be gathered from old and very imperfect traditions. The substance of the extracts above spoken of is as follows.

*From the university register.*

July 11, 1642. The king sent a letter to Dr. Prideaux, bishop of Worcester, and then vice-chancellor of Oxford, to borrow money of the colleges and halls, to be repaid with the interest of 8 per cent.

*From the college register of All Souls.*

July 11, 1642. " Upon a letter  
" from the king, the college agreed  
" to lend all the ready money in their  
" treasury, viz. 351 l. 7 s. 3 d. and  
" that they would borrow as much  
" as is owing to the said treasury  
" upon the college bond, which is  
" 300 l. in all 651 l. 7 s. 3 d. to his  
" majesty's use, receiving an acquit-

" tance for the same, by his majesty's  
" direction, from Sir Richard Cha-  
" worth, chancellor of Chichester."

Note that in *Rushworth's Collections*, part III. vol. 2. may be seen the king's letter to the vice-chancellor of Oxford, from Beverly the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1642; wherein he returns " his royal  
" thanks, for a most large and ample  
" testimony of the affection of that  
" loyal university, by the free loan  
" of a very considerable sum of mo-  
" ney, in a time of so great and ur-  
" gent necessity."

*From the same college register of  
All Souls.*

Jan. 6. 1642. The king's letter to the college to deliver their plate to Sir William Parkhurst and Thomas Bushell esq. masters of the mint, to be repaid, " as soon as God shall en-  
" able us, after the rate of 5 s. per  
" ounce white silver, and 5 s. 6 d.  
" guilt silver."

*An original paper in the hand of the  
president of Corpus Christi college.*

Jan. 21. 1642. " It was agreed  
" that our college plate should be  
" sent unto the king, according to  
" his letter of Jan. 6. 1642. By us

*Rob. Newlin, Pr."*  
and four more.

*From*

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

87

Welsh feathers, the distinguishing mark of that mint, as <sup>CHAR. I.</sup> has been before observed. 1642.

THIS money not only differed in form from what had been before coined, but some pieces of new deno-

*From a letter to the rector and fellows of Exeter college.*

Jan. 6. 1642.

CHARLES R.

“ ——— and having received several quantities of plate from divers of our loving subjects, we have removed our mint hither, to our city of Oxford, for the coinage thereof.

“ And we have entrusted our trusty and well beloved Sir William Parkhurst kn<sup>t</sup>. and Thomas Bushell esq. officers of our mint, to receive the same plate from you.”

*The receipt for the same.*

Feb. 2. 1642. “ Received of the rector and fellows of the college of Exeter in Oxford, in plate for his majesty’s service, as followeth:

	<i>l. oz. dwt.</i>
“ In white plate —	208 04 18
“ In guilt plate —	38 00 03
“ Total —	<u>246 05 01</u>

By the register of the same college, wherein are some letters that passed between the king and the college, it further appears, that upon his first desiring their plate, they presented a petition setting forth, “ that it was contrary to the statutes they were sworn to observe, to alienate or so much as alter the form of their plate, upon any pretence whatsoever;” to which the king in his answer urged, “ the example of

“ other colleges, who were equally tyed down in that respect by their statutes,” and told them, that, “ if they considered the intention of their benefactors, they would make no scruple.” Upon which they complied with his desire.

*From the university register.*

“ To the vice-chancellor, and the rest of the convocation.

CHARLES R.

“ Trusty and well-beloved, we greet you well. Whereas we have lately, by our letters to the several heads and fellows of every college within this our university, desired the loan of all the plate belonging to these our said colleges, for the supply and maintenance of our army raised for the defence of us and these whole kingdoms: and whereas we are informed that there are other quantities of plate belonging to our university for the use of several halls, which cannot be disposed of but by the consent of the convocation, we have thought fit, etc.”

Oxford, 25. Jan. 1642.

*Quibus perlectis per procuratorem universitatis, prorogante vice-cancellario, omnis coetus magistrorum regentium et non regentium annuebat, ut quaecumque vasa et utensilia argentea aut deaurata, in aulis invenirentur, ad usum serenissimi, etc.*

31 Jan. 1642.

minations

CHAR. I.  
1642.

minations were also now introduced ; there being made of silver, PIECES OF TWENTY SHILLINGS, and TEN SHILLINGS, CROWNS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALF SHILLINGS, GROATS, QUARTER SHILLINGS, HALF GROATS, and PENNIES.

THE four larger pieces represented on one side the king on horseback as usual, but with arms and weapons mostly under the horse's feet, the Welsh feathers in the area behind him, and with his usual style: on their reverse was this motto, EXVRGAT. DEVS. DISSIPENTVR. INIMICI. round about, and RELIG. PROT. LEG. ANG. LIBER. PAR. in two lines generally, cross the middle of the area, alluding to what his majesty had declared at the breaking out of the war, that "his intentions were to preserve the protestant religion, laws, and liberties of his subjects, and privileges of parliament." Within the area were, above, three plumes of the Welsh feathers; with the value, on the twenty, ten, and five shilling pieces, but not on the half crowns: and underneath was the date of the years of mintage. I have seen of these larger pieces those dated in the several years 1642, 1643, and 1644: and I have heard of others dated in 1646. They are in general of very coarse and mean work, but in their weight are not to be found fault with. Yet have I seen some twenty shilling pieces struck in 1644, finely performed, on the reverse of which the motto RELIG. PROT. *etc.* was placed in a handsome compartment, surmounted with one large plume of the Welsh feathers. I have seen besides a very beautiful crown of the same date, upon which the city of Oxford appeared in perspective under the king's horse: the word OXON. was to be read over the view of the said city, and was again impressed under the date upon the other side, as the letters ox. were also on the twenty shilling piece.

One

One of these very remarkable crowns was in the collection of my friend Brown Willis, esq. by whom it was, among other valuable coins, not long since presented to the university library at Oxford. Many of these coins have nothing that looks like a privy mark, but others have the Welsh feathers again repeated in the place of one, before the beginning of the king's style: which observation also holds of all the three pound, twenty, and ten shilling pieces of gold, coined in this mint. And it may be added, concerning the fine Oxford crown piece last spoken of, that upon that there is a sort of cross croset in the place of a mark on the one side, and that on the reverse, there is a branch of either laurel or olive between each of the four words, EXVRGAT. DEVS. DISSIPENTVR. INIMICI.

THE lesser moneys of silver of this sort from the shilling down to the pennie, have all the king's head on the one side, exactly the same as on the pieces struck before the removal of the mint from Aberistwith: but on the other, they have the motto EXVRGAT. *etc.* round about, and RELIG. PROT. *etc.* mostly in three lines, cross the area, with the three plumes above and the date below. Some of these I have seen dated as late as the year 1646; from whence it is probable this mint continued till the surrender of Oxford to the parliament forces, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June that year \*. Some of the half shillings and groats of 1643, and 1644, have, as was observed above, the mint mark of the open book, whilst most of the others have either no mark at all, or the feathers repeated, as on

\* The scarcest of this money, is that of the year 1645. I do not myself recollect to have seen any more pieces of that date than one groat: and there was probably but very little money coined in this mint that year. Mr. Thoresby had also a like groat in his collection.

CHAR. I.  
1642.

the larger money. There are also half shillings of 1646, that have a B at the head of the king's style, of which I know not the reason: and I have seen a groat of the same date without any mark, and upon which the feathers were omitted.

IT is farther to be noted, that upon some of the moneys of this kind of all sorts as well of gold, as of silver, the letters OX. or OXON. occur under the date: and these pieces were very probably minted out of plate or bullion, furnished by the gentlemen of the university or city of Oxford. There are besides some others that have under the date an R and a B interlaced: these are, I believe, all dated in 1644, and are of silver only. They are reported to have been thus marked in memory of Dr. Richard Baylie, president of St. John's college, and dean of Salisbury, a gentleman who suffered greatly afterwards for his services to the king, and who is said to have procured him a considerable loan about this time: but what credit is to be given to this tradition, I shall not determine.

I TAKE it for a truth, that all the *exurgat* money was coined at Oxford, as I observe that sort of money to have commenced with the establishment of the mint there, and to have ceased upon the surrender of the city: I have also found this to be the current tradition in the university, and the general opinion of the oldest collectors of these coins, and I have never yet met with a good reason, to assign any of them to any other particular place.

BUT besides this money, there were also pieces of other sorts struck during the king's troubles; some of which were more like his former coins, with arms upon the reverse. Among these I have noted a half crown marked with a rose, and differing from the common ones only in this, that

that the king seems commanding with a truncheon in his hand, the ground under the horse covered with weapons, and that it is dated 1642, under the shield on the reverse. This, by the mark and date, could not be minted in the tower; I should therefore apprehend it to have been coined at York, about the time that the king first set up his standard in that neighbourhood, and where I presume the mint still subsisted: and the same may be said of some shillings and lesser pieces of the same date and with the same mark of a rose, and of some others again dated in 1644; in which last year the city of York was surrendered to the parliament, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July. I have also seen a half crown with *CHST.* under the horse for Chester, a crown with a castle as a mark on both sides dated 1645, and another of the same date and mark, but with *Ex.* for Exeter on the reverse: a half crown with three pears, being the arms of the city of Worcester; and another, much taken notice of, for the particularity of having the royal arms encircled with the garter and supported, a manner in which they are represented on no other English coin. This piece is dated in 1645, and is said to have been minted somewhere in the west of England, tho' I never heard the particular place. But I should in general imagine, that all these last mentioned pieces were coined by the moneyers of the mint at York, who dispersed upon the breaking up of the same in 1644.

DURING the continuance of the civil war, the noblemen and gentlemen in arms for the king, were under the necessity of striking money occasionally, and coining down their plate for the relief of their men. A good deal of this sort of money has been preserved in the cabinets of the curious: but it were to be wished that some account of it had been published, whilst the memory of these

CHAR. I.  
1642.

these transactions was yet fresh, and that some of the persons concerned in them were still living; as it is only from very imperfect traditions, that any knowledge has been handed down to us of these things, that were done in times of great distress, and of which consequently no regular records were then kept.

THE first of this sort of money was struck in the castle of Dublin, by order of the lords of the council there, in January 1642, consisting of irregular pieces of plate, stamp-

ed on each side with the figures <sup>dwt. gr. dwt. gr. dwt. gr.</sup> 19-8, 9-16, 3-20, *etc.* and designed respectively to pass for five shillings, two shillings and six pennies, one shilling, *etc.* Soon after which others were also by the king's approbation struck there, of all the ordinary values, from five shillings to a pennie, with C. R. under a crown on the one side, and the value <sup>s s d</sup> V, II-VI, *etc.* on the other.

THERE were also some other irregular pieces of silver, stamped on both sides with V<sup>s</sup>. without either crown or C. R.; and others with only a plain cross on the one side, and the value, as V<sup>s</sup>, on the other: but I am ignorant when or where they were coined.

1645. IN 1645, when Carlisle was defended for the king, the governor, Sir Thomas Glemham, coined out of plate, and in a very rude manner, shillings, with C. R. under a crown and the figures XII. on the one side, and OBS. CARL. on the other: there were also pieces of three shillings each, and perhaps some others, of the same make.

THERE were besides this same year pieces struck at Cork in Ireland, with only the value, as XII, VI, *etc.* on the one side, and CORK. 1645. on the other. And towards the end of the same and the beginning of the following year, there were coined at Newark, pieces of thirty, twelve

twelve, nine, and six pennies, all of the form of a lozenge, with a crown between the letters C. and R, and their value, XXX, XII, *etc.* on the one side, and OBS. NEWARK. 1645. or 1646, on the reverse.

CHAR. I.  
1645.

SOME other pieces stamped on one side only, with a castle, and the value as II<sup>s</sup>-III<sup>d</sup>, II<sup>s</sup>, I<sup>s</sup>-III<sup>d</sup>, *etc.* punched underneath, are commonly said to have been struck at Scarborough, when that castle was besieged in the year 1645.

OTHER pieces, and of different forms, are in like manner impressed on one side only, with the figure of a very ruinous castle, the legend *Caroli fortuna resurgam*, graved round about: but of these and some other pieces on which different castles are represented, I could never get any certain account, tho' some of them are said to have been struck at Colchester, in 1648.

WHILST the castle of Pontefract was defended for the king in 1648, half crowns were struck there in the form of a lozenge, like those coined at Newark, with shillings also of the same make, and some others that were round or eight corner'd. These had on one side, C. R. under a crown, with the motto, DUM. SPIRO. SPERO. round about; and on the other the figure of the castle, with a hand issuing out of one of the towers holding a naked sword, OBS. P. C. 1648. Some of the shillings had also the value XII, and others the figure of a great gun, in the place of the hand and sword.

1648.

AND whereas after the king's death, this castle was still maintained about seven weeks, the governor thereof, colonel John Morris, did during that time coin money in the name of king Charles the second. Of this money I have seen two different shillings both of an octogonal figure. The first of which was like one of those above described,

A a

with

CHAR. I. 1648. with CAROLVS. SECVNDVS, 1648. round about the figure of the castle: and the other had on one side an imperial crown, with these words, HANC. DEVS. DEDIT. 1648. in the area, the style CAROLVS. II. D. G. MAG. B. F. ET. H. REX. round about; and on the reverse the castle with OBS. P. C. as before, and this motto, POST. MORTEM. PATRIS. PRO. FILIO. I have besides seen a piece of gold like the last mentioned shilling, but of the weight of a common twenty shilling broad piece: and Mr. Thoresby of Leeds, had a crown piece of silver, of exactly the same make.

CONCERNING all this money I should be very glad to be better informed. What goes before is such an account as I have been able to pick up: the mistakes I may have made in it will, I hope, be excused by the reader, and so will my going out of the way, to mention the pieces struck in Ireland about the same time, and which are, strictly speaking, beyond the proper bounds of this table.

CHAR. II. 1648. SOON after the king's murder, on the fatal 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1648. the house of commons; having voted the kingly office abolished, laid aside the house of lords, and settled the government in the form of a commonwealth; did, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the following April 1649, agree on the form of a new coin, and order the attorney general to bring in indentures, and an act for establishing the same.

*Common-wealth.*

1649. BUT Sir Robert Harley knight of the Bath; who had been master and worker of the mint for the king, from 1626 to 1636, and who had again been put into the same post by an ordinance of parliament of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1643; "refused to stamp any coin with any other stamp than "formerly:" which being reported to the house of commons on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following May, a tryal of the  
pix

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

95

pix was thereupon, as Whitlocke informs us, ordered to be made at Sir Robert Harley's charge, he was put out of his place, and Aaron Guerdain doctor of physick, was appointed master and worker of the mint in his room.

CHAR. II.

1649.

*21 May 1649 sold a Salary of  
4000 £ an to 2. n. Guerdain  
Master of the Mint.*

THE new silver coins of the commonwealth, were CROWNS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, and HALF SHILLINGS, with PIECES OF TWO PENNIES, PENNIES, and HALF PENNIES. The four larger pieces presented on one side the plain escutcheon of England, commonly called St. George's cross, between two branches of palm and laurel, legend, THE. COMMONWEALTH. OF. ENGLAND: and on the other, two plain escutcheons conjoined; the first charged with the English cross as before, and the other with the Irish harp, legend, GOD. WITH. US. 1649. and over the two shields were the figures V, II-VI, XII, or .VI, respectively expressing the values of the several coins. The pieces of two pennies, and the pennies bore also the same impression, with the figures II, and I, over the double shields, but without any other inscription. The half pennies had only the plain shield of England on the one side, and that of Ireland on the reverse; but none of these last pieces were dated or had any mint-mark. The moneys of gold, which were, twenty, ten, and five shilling pieces, only differed, by the expression of their value, from those of silver: and I have seen upon some of these coins all the several dates from 1649 to 1656, together with those of 1658, and 1660, the eight first impressed with the mint-mark of the sun, and the two last with that of an anchor. From all which it appears, that these moneys were never entirely discontinued, from the time of their first coinage to the Restauration. I have also heard of pieces dated in 1659, marked with an anchor: and that there were others in 1657 marked with the sun, does appear by the trial of the pix, made  
by

CHAR. II. by order of the protector, on the third of December  
1649. that same year\*.

1651. In the year 1651, one Peter Blondeau a Frenchman, who had been some time soliciting an employment in the mint, produced some models or proof-pieces of money exquisitely coined by the mill and screw, and curiously impressed with letters or graining on the rims or edges: the engraver employed in making the dies being the famous Thomas Simon, so deservedly esteemed and admired for his excellent performances in this way. These several pieces, which were half crowns, shillings, and half shillings, excepting the beauty of their work, exactly resembled the type of those of the commonwealth that were coined by the hammer: they bore the date 1651, and had also like the others the same mint mark of the sun. Some of the half crowns had on their edge these words curiously inscribed, TRUTH. AND. PEACE. 1651. PETRUS. BLONDAEVS. INVENTOR. FECIT. with a palm branch before the beginning of the motto, and a branch of laurel between the date and the name of the artist: and others had only this legend, IN. THE. THIRD. YEARE. OF. FREEDOME. BY. GODS. BLESSING. RESTORED. 1651. no less artfully impressed. Both the shillings and half shillings were excellently grained on their respective

\* What quantity was coined in all of this money of the commonwealth, I have never been able to learn. All the papers I have seen relating to that subject, were only some extracts Mr. Conduit had of Dr. Guerdain's accounts, for about four years and a half elapsed between the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 1649, when he entered upon his office, and the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 1653. By which it appeared that there was coin-

ed at the Tower, during that time; in crown gold, the weight of 1768 *l.* 7 *oz.* 17 *dwt.* 16 *gr.* making in tale, at 41 *l.* the pound weight, the sum of 72,514 *l.* 18 *s.* 08 *d.* 1 *q.* and in sterling silver, the weight of 123,644 *l.* 01 *oz.* 08 *dwt.* 12 *gr.* making in tale, at 3 *l.* 2 *s.* the pound weight, the sum of 383,294 *l.* 15 *s.* 04 *d.* 1 *q.*; so that the whole coinage, both in gold and silver, during the said time, amounted to the value of 455,809 *l.* 14 *s.* 00 *d.* 2 *q.*

edges:

edges: and all the pieces were in general sized and brought to their true weight, with the utmost degree of exactness. I have been told there were also crown pieces of this proof money, but I never saw any of them myself: and Thomas Violet, who wrote about the time for the moneyers of the mint against Blondeau, takes notice of no other pieces of silver coined by him, besides those just above spoken of.

CHAR. II.  
1651.

IT is no ways surprizing that these pieces should have excited great envy and emulation among the moneyers at the mint: they strongly opposed the admitting of Blondeau or his method of coining, which they represented as having nothing new in it. They also produced, from the hand of David Rammage, one of their company, proof pieces in opposition to the others: which were indeed well performed, tho' not with all that delicacy and beauty so conspicuous in the first. These were pieces of silver of the same size as the hammered twelve pennie pieces, having on one side the plain escutcheon of England between two olive branches, with the usual style of the commonwealth; and on the other, the two conjoined shields of England and Ireland supported by an angel, who seemed standing behind them with extended wings, and holding the two upper exterior corners with his hands; motto GAVRDED. WITH. ANGELES. 1651. They had a mollet for a mint-mark on both sides; some of them were thin, and grained on the edge as if designed to pass for shillings; and others were of the thickness of a modern half crown, with the legend TRVTH. AND. PEACE. 1651. printed on the edge, and mollets instead of points between the words.

THERE were about this time several propositions made by the said Peter Blondeau, and some others by the moneyers, for the introducing this new way of coin-

CHAR. II. ing into the mint: but it does not appear that any thing  
1652. was then concluded about it.

IN the year 1652, there was silver money coined in New England, but of no other date that ever I saw: shillings, halves and quarters, with pieces of two pennies and one pennie. All which had on one side the American pine with *MASATHVSETS. IN.* and on the reverse *NEW. ENGLAND. AN. DO.* round about, with the date 1652, and the value *XII, VI. etc.* in the area.

I HAVE also been assured that certain round blanks of silver, stamped with only *NE* near the edge on the one side, and with the figures *XII* or *VI* in the like manner on the other, and commonly reported to have been struck at Newcastle, were really moneys of New England, and of about the same time as the former.

HAVING mentioned these American pieces, I must also take notice that, about the same time, the lord Baltimore, lord proprietor of Maryland, coined there very handsome shillings, half shillings, and groats; all having his own head bare, and in profile, with the legend *CAECILIVS. DNS. TERRAE. MARIAE. &c.* on the one side; and his arms under the crown of his palatinate, with the value *XII, VI, or IV,* and the motto *CRESCITE. ET. MVLTIPPLICAMINI.* on the reverse.

IT may be noted that all these American coins want better than two pennies in a shilling, of the weight of the English: which also adds to the probability, that the blanks above spoken of were rather stamped in New England than at Newcastle.

Oliver Pr. IN the year 1656 Oliver Cromwell, who had on the  
1656. 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 1653 been invested with the title of lord protector of the commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and who was every day acquiring new powers, adventured to coin money with his own head and style.

But

But whether the moneys of this sort were, either now or afterwards, ever published as true, lawful, and current moneys of England, I have not been able to learn. All his twenty shilling pieces of gold that I have seen are of this date, and so are a very few of his silver half crowns, one of which is in the valuable collection of the worthy Robert Bootle esq. one of the directors of the East India company: but in general the silver coins we have with the head and style of the protector do not bear an earlier date than that of the year 1658. I have also been informed, by my very ingenious friend Mr. George Vertue, who has examined all the works of Simon with the exactness of an artist, and from whom we may expect an accurate account of the same, when he shall have leisure to publish the curious collections he has made upon that subject, that he has observed half crowns of this sort, where the last figure of the date had been altered from a 6 to an 8 upon the die: which would lead one to conjecture, that those dies, tho' prepared in 1656, were not really used before the year 1658, and after the second solemn inauguration of the protector, which was on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1657 \*. When it is even probable

CHAR. II.  
1656.

another in <sup>my</sup> possession & N

\* There was, I find, a tryal of the pix, on the 3<sup>d</sup> of December 1657, which is said, in the books of the mint, to have been of the moneys coined in the Tower, from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 1649, to that time: and that the money then tryed consisted of units, double crowns, and crowns, of new standard gold; and of crowns, half crowns, shillings, half shillings, two pennie pieces, pennies, and half pennies, of old sterling silver; all marked with the sun, and agreeable to the indenture made with Aaron Guerdain M. D. master and worker, the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1649. whereby it ap-

pears that this tryal was of moneys of the commonwealth only. The tryal was made before the commissioners of the great seal, and the commissioners of the treasury, by virtue of a warrant from the lord protector: which warrant I shall here transcribe a copy of, as the same is inserted in the book from whence I took these particulars, and as it was in all probability the only one of the sort.

*Oliver P.*

“ Whereas amongst other weighty  
“ affairs of the commonwealth, the  
“ care of assaying and trying of the  
“ moneys

CHAR. II.  
1658.

bable that the pieces coined, were rather looked upon as proofs, and given away as medals or counters among his friends, than publickly dispersed as common money throughout the kingdom.

BUT however that matter stood, the pieces themselves were exceedingly beautiful. They were all coined with the greatest care and exactness by the mill and screw, from dies prepared by the abovementioned Simon, and were of four sorts, CROWNS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, and HALF SHILLINGS, the two first having letters curiously impressed, and the two last being very neatly grained, on their respective edges.

All these several pieces, which are universally allowed to have been equal, if not superiour, to whatever else had been performed in this way, either here or in any other part of Europe, exhibited on one side the protector's head laureat and in profile, a sort of Roman mantle about his shoulders,

“ moneys thereof by the standard of  
 “ England, according to the ancient  
 “ custom of the realm, is not the least.  
 “ We judging it necessary that the  
 “ tryal and assay of the said money  
 “ and coin be forthwith made, do  
 “ therefore hereby signifie such our  
 “ will and pleasure to be: command-  
 “ ing you forthwith to cause a tryal  
 “ and assay to be made of the pix,  
 “ now being in the mint within the  
 “ Tower of London, by a jury ~~of~~  
 “ of goldsmiths of our said city of  
 “ London, of integrity and experience,  
 “ to be impannelled and sworn on  
 “ a day certain, to be by you in that  
 “ behalf appointed, in the place ac-  
 “ customed within our palace of  
 “ Westminster: and that the lords  
 “ commissioners of our treasury, the  
 “ justices of the several benches, and  
 “ barons of the exchequer, or some

“ of them be then there, present, and  
 “ councelling, and assisting you in the  
 “ due execution of this our service.

“ Given at White-hall this 9<sup>th</sup> day  
 “ of November, 1657.”

*To our right trusty and well be-  
 loved Nath. Fiennes, and John  
 Lisle, Lords Commissioners of  
 our great seal of England.*

The tryal of the pix last preceding this, was made on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1649, before the lord president of the council of state, the commissioners of the great seal, and others of the council of state, and committee of revenues: by virtue of an act of the 7<sup>th</sup> of the said month of November 1649, to try the moneys coined from the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1646. These moneys are said to have been marked with

shoulders,\* with his style OLIVAR. D. G. R. P. ANG. SCO. ET. HIB. &c. PRO; and on the reverse were, upon a handsome shield, under an imperial crown, the crosses of Eng-

CHAR. II.  
1658.

with a scepter, and were therefore all coined before the king's death. This was consequently that same tryal of the pix that is mentioned from Whitlocke in the 95<sup>th</sup> page of these papers, and that was ordered to be made at the charge of Sir Robert Harley, when he was put out of his place: and Dr. Guerdain's pix was therefore not opened, before the above mentioned 3<sup>d</sup> of December 1657.

\* It may be here observed that upon the gold coins of the protector, his neck was left entirely naked, in which they seem to have imitated the *louis d'or* of Lewis XIII. of France, first coined in the year 1640. Hereby his coins of silver tho' gilded, were nevertheless readily distinguished from those of gold; a particular in which the moneys of the commonwealth had been remarkably faulty: and for the same reason, the shield upon the reverse, which was garnished upon the silver, was left quite plain upon the gold. This distinction of the neck was afterwards resumed by king Charles the second, upon the first coinage of the guineas: and it has constantly been observed by all our princes ever since, queen Anne only excepted. Who did from a nicety of her sex, herself object to it, as I have been told, when the proofs for the new guineas were first shewed her: upon which account one of the curls of her hair was brought down before, to distinguish, tho' not so readily, her gold from her silver moneys. The reverses of the guineas *etc.* have also constantly been made different from those of the shillings: four scepters tipped with the symbols of the four kingdoms, being extended through the quarters between the

crowned shields, upon the gold pieces of king Charles II, king James II, king William III, queen Anne, and king George I; and the arms being properly marshalled in a single shield crowned, upon those of king William and queen Mary, and those of his present majesty king George the second. Besides which the center of the piece was filled with four interlinked C's upon the guineas *etc.* of king Charles, was left empty upon those of king James, and was again filled, but with a full blown rose, upon such of queen Anne's as were coined before the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland took place in 1707.

I would here just note that, altho' I have never met with any account of the quantity that was coined of the protector's money, I apprehend the same not to have been very considerable: first, because in a manner all I have ever seen of it has been tolerably preserved, from whence it appears to have been hoarded up and laid by, without ever running backwards and forwards in payments; which would hardly have been the case had there ever been a great quantity of it. And secondly, because by far the greater number of the crown pieces that come to hand; have a particular crack much taken notice of thro' the neck; from whence one should infer, that those which were struck with that particular broken die, bore a very considerable proportion to the whole number that was minted of them. Besides which it is very doubtful whether all that we have of the half crowns, have not proceeded from only two or three individual dies.

C c

land

*Handwritten notes:*  
 Upon the neck, which  
 makes the neck  
 more visible than  
 the other coins  
 upon the neck  
 upon the neck  
 upon the neck  
 upon the neck

CHAR. II. 1658. land and Scotland quartered with the Irish harp, and his own paternal coat, a lion *rampant*, upon an escutcheon in the center: the motto PAX. QVAERITVR. BELLO. 1658. The legend round the edges of the crowns and half crowns was, HAS. NISI. PERITVRVS. MIHI. ADIMAT. NEMO. with a mullet between the end and the beginning, as a sort of a privy mark upon the crowns; and a cross *patee* on the half crowns that I have taken particular notice of.

OF all these coins, the half shilling is the most uncommon; I have myself seen but one of them, and have not heard of above three others, that are any where said to be now extant. Besides the twenty shilling pieces of gold abovementioned to have been struck by the protector, and which were grained on the edge; there were also coined like them, some fifty shilling pieces of the same date 1656, but edged with the following words †. PROTECTOR. LITERIS. LITERAE. NUMMIS. CORONA. ET SALVS. and there is remaining in the Tower a puncheon for the head of a ten shilling piece, but I never heard of any such piece actually minted.

AFTER the protector's death, on the 3<sup>d</sup> of September this same year 1658, and the expiration of his son Richard Cromwell's authority in the following April 1659: the coins of the commonwealth, which had never been totally discontinued, were still minted as before; and we accordingly meet with pieces both of gold and silver, exactly the same as those coined in 1649 and the following years, but dated in 1659 and 1660, and with the mint mark of an anchor.

OF king Charles the second I have seen no money coined before his restauration, except the pieces struck at Pontefract castle, mentioned above; and some five shilling pieces and half five shilling pieces, charged on the one side with an imperial crown CAR. II. D. G. MAG. BRIT.

and either <sup>S</sup>V, or <sup>S</sup>II-<sup>D</sup>VI. respectively on the other, with  
the

the words FRA. ET. HYB. REX. F. D, &c. round about, and the mint mark of a *fleur de lis* on both sides. When or where these last pieces were coined, I have never yet been able to learn.

CHAR. II.  
1660.

BUT his majesty being at length restored to his dominions in 1660, having been solemnly proclaimed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, and having made his publick entry into London on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month; did, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following July, make an indenture with Sir Ralph Freeman, master and worker of his mint, for the coining of the same pieces, and of the same value, as those that had been there coined in the time of the king his father. That is to say of silver, CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, and HALF SHILLINGS, PIECES OF TWO PENNIES, PENNIES, and HALF PENNIES: upon which, as well as upon the gold, he afterwards by warrant of the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1661, ordered the values of the several pieces to be respectively stamped; and to which he also, by commission soon after, directed GROATS and QUARTER SHILLINGS to be added.

Kingre-  
stored.

THIS money was all hammered, and it is to be noted that altho' crown pieces were mentioned in the indentures, none such were ever coined, as it appears by the verdicts of the pix. The half crowns presented on one side the king's profile bust crowned, with long hair, a broad laced band, and in armour; his style, CAROLVS. II. D. G. MAG. BRIT. FRAN. ET. HIB. REX. round about: and on their reverse were placed the royal arms on a plain escutcheon quartered by the old cross *fleurie*, with this motto, CHRISTO. AVSPICE. REGNO. The shillings and lesser pieces down to the pennie, were exactly like the half crowns, only differing in size and sometimes in the contraction of the words in the royal style. The pieces coined after the warrant abovementioned of the

28<sup>th</sup>

CHAR. II.  
1660.

28<sup>th</sup> of November 1661, had behind the king's head the numerals XXX. XII, *etc.* respectively expressing the number of pennies for which each several piece was to pass. These had also, constantly I believe, a grained circle within the legend, which those first coined had not: and, as I apprehend that all the groats and quarter shillings were minted after these two last alterations took place, those are only to be seen agreeable to this description. All these pieces in general had on both sides the mint mark of an imperial crown: and they were the last moneys coined here by the hammer, before the mill and screw were absolutely established. The half pennies belonging to this coinage, and which were the last pieces minted of that denomination, I can give no particular account of: but they were most probably like those of king Charles the first, with a rose only on both sides, and for that reason are hardly now distinguishable from them.

1661.

THE coining by the mill was taken early into consideration, and was resolved upon before the end of the year 1661; tho' it was not brought into full practice till about a year later. For I find an order of council of the 17<sup>th</sup> of January that year, for a privy seal, "to pay " to Sir William Parkhurst, and Sir Anthony St. Leger, " kn", and wardens of the mint, 1400*l.* by way of im- " prest, to be employed for erecting houses, mills, en- " gines, and other materials for the coining of money " by the mill." And on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the following April,

1662.

the agreements made by Sir Ralph Freeman kn'. master and worker of the mint, and Henry Slingsby esq. his deputy, " concerning several proposals made by them, " about coining his majesty's moneys by the mill and " press," were read in council and approved.

By these agreements it appears that Peter Blondeau, the same artist that had formerly made proposals to the  
common-

commonwealth, was now taken into the mint, and that he there undertook, for certain considerations, “ to furnish  
 “ all the mills, rollers, presses, and other instruments,  
 “ to cut, flatten, make round, and size the pieces;  
 “ the engine to mark the edges of the money with letters and grainings, the great presses for coining of moneys, and all other tools and engines for the new way of coining:” and farther, that he did also undertake “ to teach and instruct the moneyers in the use of his new invented tools and engines, and in coining by way of the mill and press;” the corporation of moneyers, on their part, undertaking at certain rates in the said agreements mentioned, “ to pass the plates of gold and silver at the horse mill, and to cut, flatten, size, neale, blanch, and coin the pieces; to maintain the horses, to find alum, argol, and sawdust; to keep in repair the ovens, furnaces, and utensils for nealing and blanching, to make good the balances, small files, pans, tubs, trays, bowls, and sacks, and all waste of gold and silver in nealing, blanching, and working.”

THE said Blondeau particularly engaged, “ to discover his secrets in rounding the pieces before they are sized, and in marking the edges of the moneys with letters and grainings, unto his majesty, if he should please to be a witness of his art and inventions, and unto the warden, master and worker, and comptroller of the mint, and to such other persons only of trust and confidence, as the said Peter Blondeau should, from time to time, find necessary to employ in assisting him to round the pieces, and to mark the edges of the moneys, according to the quantities weekly coined.” And it may be noted that this practice of keeping secret the manner of edging of the money, is still observed in our mint, all those who are entrusted with it

CHAR. II. being sworn not to discover it: notwithstanding the manner in which the same operation is performed in several foreign mints, is there publickly shewn.  
1662.

IT further appears by the report of the forementioned agreements, that the officers of the mint therein named did also then certifie, “ that they had propos’d unto Thomas “ Simon and John Roetier, gravers of the mint, to accept “ of certain *præmia* therein specified, for the furnishing “ the mint with stamps for coining in the new way: but “ that by reason of a contest in art betwixt them, they “ had found it difficult to bring them to any agree- “ ment.”

THIS John Roetier was a native of Antwerp, who having been presented to the king abroad, as a very eminent and excellent artist in his way, came over soon after the Restauration, and was by his majesty appointed one of the gravers of the mint. Both Simon and he made their several models or pattern pieces for the new money, which being shewed at court, his majesty is said to have best approved of those given in by Roetier; and those were accordingly ordered to be followed in the puncheons and dies to be made for the new money. Which preference so far exasperated Simon, who did not value his own performances less than they deserved, nor knew how to submit to his foreign rival; that he either thereupon immediately quitted the mint, or, for some apprehended misbehaviour upon the occasion, was soon after removed from his office of one of the chief engravers\*.

EVERY

\* Thomas Simon, who had already been several years chief engraver to the mint, was continued in that place after the Restauration, and the hammered moneys of king Charles the second are all supposed to have been wrought from his designs: the beautiful milled unite of gold of 1662, was of his own work, and so were the first milled groats, and lesser pieces of silver, upon which the king was represented with his crown, and which were

EVERY thing was now prepared for the new method of coining, and several warrants having been given for that purpose to the officers of the mint, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November

CHAR. II.  
1662.

were no less excellent in their way. I have also seen two pieces of his work, struck both in gold and silver, which I take to have been some of his patterns for milled money, when the same was first proposed presently after the king's coming in. The first of these had on one side the king's bust below the shoulders in profile, laureat, with long hair, and in a sort of Roman dress, CAROLVS II. REX. with a star over his head: and on the reverse, were the four separate shields of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, with two interlinked C<sup>s</sup> under a crown between each two of the shields; under each pair of the C<sup>s</sup> were two Roman units. II. which leaving a square space in the center, the same was filled up, with a radiating star of eight points; the legend MAGNALIA. DEI. 1660. and on the rim was inscribed REVERSVS. SINE. CLADE. VICTOR. and after the figure of an olive branch, SIMON. FECIT. The other piece exhibited, on one side, the king's bust, nearly in the same manner as the last, but with a higher relief, a somewhat richer dress, and the star over it omitted. CAROLVS II. D. G. MAG. BR. FR. ET. HI. REX: and on the reverse, the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, quartered upon a plain escutcheon under an imperial crown, motto MAGNA. OPERA. DOMINI. 1660. without any edging. There is also another reverse to be seen in Mr. Evelyn, differing from this last only in the shape of the shield and the legend, which is PROBASTI. ME. DNE. SICVT. ARGENTVM. from whence one would conjecture that it was designed for a silver coin. Simon

was also after the Restauration employed in gravng the king's seals, as he before had been in the gravng those of the commonwealth, and of the two protectors, Oliver and Richard Cromwell. The first of which representing on the one side the parliament sitting, and on the other the map of England and Ireland, has been ever esteemed a most surprizing performance of art and labour: as the others were also of great elegance and judgment. Whether he continued, to his death, to be employed in this way by the king; or whether, when Roetier was preferred to him in the coin, he also lost that other branch of his business, I cannot certainly say. But the last particular I have learned of that sort, is from a warrant directed to him under the king's sign manual, for the preparing of queen Catherine's great seal: the original of which, together with the drawings of the same annexed, is in that noble repository of all sorts of curiosities, collected by my honoured friend Sir Hans Sloane Bar<sup>t</sup>. in the following words:

CHARLES R.

“ Our will and pleasure is, that  
“ you forthwith make and prepare  
“ a seale in silver, for our royall con-  
“ sort the queen, according to these  
“ draughts.

“ Given at White-hall the 29<sup>th</sup>  
“ day of April 1662.”

To Thomas Simon, one  
of our cheife gravers.

1662,

CHAR. II. 1662, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January following; it appears  
1662. by the books of that office, that they actually began to  
coin the new money on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February; and  
that the same was published and made current by procla-  
mation on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the following March 1663.

1663. THE pieces of silver were CROWNS, HALF CROWNS,  
SHILLINGS, and HALF SHILLINGS, almost the same as  
those that have been coined ever since. They represented  
on one side the king's head in profile, in long hair or a  
peruque, crowned with laurel, and with a sort of Roman  
mantle about his shoulders; legend CAROLVS. II. DEI.  
GRATIA: and on the reverse were the four crowned  
shields, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, with  
the garter star in the center, and four double linked C<sup>s</sup>  
in the quarters between the shields; legend MAG. BR.  
FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1663. The two larger pieces had  
on their rims or edges the following words. DECVS. ET. TV-  
TAMEN. ANNO. REGNI. XV. with some mullets or crosses that  
were possibly used as privy marks: and the two lesser  
were neatly grained on the edge, with parallel strokes at  
right angles to the faces of the coin; but which were some  
years after exchanged for those oblique ones that have  
continued in use almost to the present time. The year  
of the reign likewise, which was expressed in figures upon  
the edges of the two larger pieces, was afterwards inscribed  
upon the same in words at length, ANNO. REGNI. VICESIMO.  
OCTAVO. *etc.* and the same motto has constantly been im-  
pressed, without any alteration, upon all the crowns and  
half crowns that have since been minted in the following  
reigns. But I must not omit taking notice, that some  
of the first milled crown pieces that were coined, and  
that bore the date 1662, differed in this from those  
coined afterwards, that the arms of France and England  
were placed quarterly together in the first and third of  
the

the four crowned shields on their reverses; and that the words on their edges were only *DECVS. ET. TVTAMEN.* without the year of the king's reign. Some of these also, if not all, had a rose under the king's head.

CHAR. II.  
1663.

It was in this same year 1663, that the so often mentioned Thomas Simon, produced that beautiful and inimitable pattern crown with the petition on the edge, that is now so justly valued by the curious as a masterpiece in this sort of workmanship. It resembles, in its general disposition, the common milled five shilling pieces, but the king's head being larger fills a greater part of the area; both the face and the garment are covered with a sort of frosted work, first used by this master in some of his former coins, and which has a good effect in setting off, as by shades, the relief of the figure. The letters are expressed by outlines frosted in the middle, and under the head is the name *Simon* in small characters: upon the reverse, where all the minute parts of the arms are finished with great elegance, there is in the center, instead of the usual star, the figure of St. George on horseback encircled with the garter, upon which the motto *HONI. SOIT. QVI. MAL. Y. PENSE.* is very distinctly legible. The date is 1663, and upon the edge is his petition, containing the following words; but written in two lines as expressed in the margin, together with two linked C's under a crown and between two branches of palm, to separate the end of the inscription from the beginning.

THOMAS SIMON MOST HUMBLY PRAYS YOUR MAJESTY TO COMPARE THIS HIS TRIAL PIECE WITH THE DUTCH AND IF MORE TRULY DRAWN AND EMBOSSED MORE GRACEFULLY ORDERD AND MORE ACCURATELY ENGRAVEN TO RELIEVE HIM.

*THOMAS SIMON most humbly prays your MAJESTY, to compare this his tryal piece with the Dutch, and if more truly drawn and embosd, more gracefully orderd, and more accurately engraven, to relieve him.*

CHAR. II.  
1663.

IT is commonly said that there were not more than twenty of these pieces struck off with the petition, besides a very small number more without it; but edged with the legend, REDDITE. QVAE. CAESARIS. CAESARI. &c. and a sort of *rebus* intended to express these words, *Post nubila Phœbus*.

WHAT relief Simon received upon this petition, or what was done for him afterwards, I could never certainly learn: but it does not appear that he was after this employed in the making of any of the moneys, tho' a medal dated in 1665 is taken to have been of his work. I am indeed told that he died soon after, and probably in this very same year 1665.

WHEN the other milled money came in, or rather some time before, there were coined by the mill, GROATS, PIECES OF THREE PENNIES, TWO PENNIES, and PENNIES: all very neat, but excepting in the boldness of their relief, and the omission of the inner circle within the legend, following the type of those before coined by the hammer. These had also, like the hammered ones, the mint mark of an imperial crown; and could not therefore any of them be coined after the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 1663, when the last tryal of the pix was made that took any notice of a privy mark. Soon after this there were coined new pieces of the same denominations as the last, but more agreeable to the other coins; all having the king's head laureat, with his style and the date, the same as upon the larger pieces: but the groat was stamped on the reverse with four interlinked C's under a crown, and a rose, thistle, *fleur de lis*, and harp, in the four quarters; the three pennie piece with three interlinked C's, the half groat with two, and the pennie with a single C, all under a crown in the same manner. None of these last pieces, nor of those minted before them, tho' coined by the mill, were ever marked on the edges: and the same is to be

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

be understood of all the pieces of the same denominations that have since been minted in any of the following reigns\*.

CHAR. II.  
1663.

THE

\* By the duplicates and attested copies of the controllment rolls and other books remaining in his majesty's mint, it appears, that there were coined in the Tower of London, during the reign of king Charles the second, and after his restauration, the several sums mentioned in the following account: that is to say,

In crown gold, of twenty-two carats fine and two carats of allay, from the 20 <sup>th</sup> day of July 1660 to the 31 <sup>st</sup> day of December 1662, the weight of 918 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>oz.</i> 3 <i>dwt.</i> the which, being coined into unites commonly called broad pieces, double crowns, and Britain crowns, and into milled unites of the same weight as the others; made in money then current, at the rate of 41 <i>l.</i> the pound weight, the value of	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>l.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>s.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>d.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37,665</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> </table>	}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	}	37,665	16	11
}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>						
}	37,665	16	11						

In like gold, from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January 1662 to the 6 <sup>th</sup> day of February 1684, the weight of 93,024 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>oz.</i> 8 <i>dwt.</i> 13 <i>gr.</i> the which, being coined into twenty shilling pieces, commonly called guineas, pieces of ten shillings, forty shillings, and five pounds; made in money then and still current, at 44 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> the pound weight, the value of	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>l.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>s.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>d.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,139,588</td> <td style="text-align: right;">02</td> <td style="text-align: right;">06</td> </tr> </table>	}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	}	4,139,588	02	06
}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>						
}	4,139,588	02	06						

Total of the gold in weight, 93,943 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>oz.</i> 11 <i>dwt.</i> 13 <i>gr.</i> making in money	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>l.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>s.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>d.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,177,253</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> <td style="text-align: right;">05</td> </tr> </table>	}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	}	4,177,253	19	05
}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>						
}	4,177,253	19	05						

*Note,* That altho' the warrant, for the cutting the pound weight of gold into forty-four guineas and a half, was not signed until the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1663. yet the weight of 27 *l.* 8 *oz.* coined some time before, and which was the only gold minted since the last day of the preceding December, was really coined into guineas; and as such delivered, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of the following December 1663.

In sterling silver, of 11 <i>oz.</i> 2 <i>dwt.</i> fine and 18 <i>dwt.</i> of allay, from the 20 <sup>th</sup> day of July 1660 to the 5 <sup>th</sup> day of February 1662. the weight of 175,691 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>oz.</i> 10 <i>dwt.</i> the which being coined into hammered money, at 3 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> the pound weight, made in the coins then current, the sum of	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>l.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>s.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>d.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">}</td> <td style="text-align: right;">544,642</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> </table>	}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	}	544,642	14	11
}	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>						
}	544,642	14	11						

In

CHAR. II.  
1663.

THE English merchants trading to the East-Indies, did, in the reign of king Charles the second, strike silver money

	l.	s.	d.
In like silver, from the 6 <sup>th</sup> day of February 1662 } to the 6 <sup>th</sup> day of February 1684, the weight of } 1,025,012 l. 0 oz. 14 dwt. 14 gr. the which be- } ing coined into milled money, at the same rate of } 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, made in the coins then } and still current, the sum of ————— } }	3,177,537	07	09 19.
Total of the silver, in weight 1,200,703 l. 3 oz. } 4 dwt. 14 gr. making in money ————— } }	3,722,180	02	08 19.

And the total value of all the moneys both of }  
gold and silver coined in this reign, according to }  
the foregoing rates, amounted to the sum of ————— }  
}
 7,899,434 | 02 | 01 19. |

It may here be noted, that part of the silver abovementioned was the produce of 1,500,000 French crowns, or 4,500,000 *Livres Tournois*, received for the sale of Dunkirk; which produced in standard silver the weight of 108,636 l. 6 oz. 3 dwt. 2 gr. and made in coined English money by tale 336,773 l. 3 s. 9 d. 2 q. As also, that other part of the same silver was the produce of what were called the crown and harp moneys, which Sir Thomas Vyner kn<sup>t</sup>. and bar<sup>t</sup>. Francis Meynell esq. then sheriff of London, and Edward Backwell esq. contracted with his majesty on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1651, to take in by tale, and to coin with all convenient expedition, at their own charge into English current moneys: receiving for the same a consideration of 5 l. 10 s. for every 100 l. in tale, in lieu of want of weight and expence of coinage. Upon which there was accordingly recoined of the said cross and harp moneys, the sum of about 500,000 l. in tale.

And here I must acknowledge the particular favours of the honourable Richard Arundell esq. now master and worker of his majesty's mint;

who, knowing that I was making enquiries of this sort, was kindly pleased to direct I should have free access to any of the books or papers of his office: and by whose leave the ingenious and accurate Mr. Anthony Pollet, of the same, communicated to me his own extracts, drawn out with great labour and exactness from the original records, and wherein are contained the particular accounts of all the sums both of gold and silver, coined since the restauration of king Charles the second. From these extracts the foregoing account was taken, as were also those others of the same sort that I shall have occasion to produce in the sequel of these pages. Nor must I at the same time omit returning thanks, to my friends, Mr. Joseph Harris one of the assay masters, and Mr. Charles Smyth the deputy comptroller, who have on all occasions been ready to favour me with any informations I wanted in relation to these affairs: as indeed every officer of the mint has been, that I have on any occasion applied myself to, and from all which I have received particular instances of regard and great civility.

in

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS. 113

in India, for the use of their factory at Bombaim, formerly a settlement of the Portugese, but yielded up to his majesty upon his marriage with the Infanta of Portugal, in 1662. And of this sort of money I have seen *Rupees* of the value of about two shillings English, and lesser pieces, commonly called *Fanams*, worth each the tenth part of a *Rupee*. These *Rupees* were of several sorts, some had on one side PAX. DEO. in the area, MONETA. BOMBAIENSIS. round about, and the arms of the company on the reverse; others had on the first side, MON. BOMBAY. ANGLIC. REGIM<sup>s</sup>. A<sup>o</sup>. 7<sup>o</sup>. in the area, with INCREMENTVM. A. DEO. PAX. round about, and on the other HON. SOC. ANG. IND. ORI. about the company's arms; a third sort had again only the company's arms on the one side, and Arabic or Indian characters on the other; and lastly, a fourth sort had in the area THE. RVPEE. OF BOMBAIM. and on the reverse the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, in a plain escutcheon crowned; the legend round about, BY. AVTHORITY. OF CHARLES. THE. SECOND. — KING. OF. GREAT. BRITAIN. FRANCE. AND. IRELAND. with a date, which was upon some that I have examined, 1678. The *Fanams* had only an Indian figure on the one side, and two linked C<sup>s</sup> on the other.

KING Charles the second departed this life at Whitehall, on wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1684; and his brother and successor king James the second, then duke of York, was proclaimed the same day.

THE silver moneys of king James were the same, as the last of the king his predecessor, excepting the head, name, and date; that the spaces between the four crowned shields, on the reverses of the four larger pieces, were in these left blank: and also that upon the four lesser, the king's hair was represented short, and his neck bare; and that the number of pennies severally contained in each,

F f were

CHAR. II.  
1663.

JAMES II.  
1684.

JAMES II.  
1684.

were here expressed by so many l. or Roman units under a crown, upon their respective reverses\*.

THIS unfortunate prince, fearing a general defection of his subjects upon the arrival of the then prince of Orange, soon after retired into France, where he landed on the 23<sup>d</sup> of December 1688: and the convention of the lords and commons, that met soon after at Westminster, having declared, "that king James had abdicated the government, and that the throne was thereby become vacant;" the prince and princess of Orange were thereupon proclaimed king and queen, by the names of king William and queen Mary, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February in the same year 1688.\*\*

W. & M.  
1688.

THE silver moneys of king William and queen Mary were the same as those of king James; CROWNS, HALF CROWNS,

\* There was coined in the Tower of London, during the reign of king James the second, that is to say, from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 1684 to the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 1688.

In crown gold, the weight of 47,497 l. 6 oz. } 1 dwt. which being coined into twenty shilling } pieces called guineas, &c. made at the rate of } 44 l. 10 s. the pound weight, the value of — } } 2,113,638    18    08    29.	l.    s.    d.
--	----------------

In sterling silver, the weight of 167,198 l. 10 oz. } 6 dwt. 20 gr. making in money at the rate of } 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, the sum of — — } } 518,316    09    05    19.	l.    s.    d.
---	----------------

Total value of both the gold and the silver —	2,631,955    08    01    39.
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\*\* The late king James landing with French forces at Kingsale in Ireland on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the following March, the greatest part of that kingdom submitted to him, and he made his entry into Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the same month. He there by proclamation raised for his present occasions, the value of all the coins both of gold

and silver, that were then current in Ireland: but his wants a few months after greatly increasing, he was reduced to such distress, that he was forced to coin old brass guns and other utensils of base metal, into pieces of money, made also current for half crowns, shillings, and half shillings, by proclamation of the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1689,

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS. 115

CROWNS, SHILLINGS, HALF SHILLINGS, GROATS, and W. & M.  
1688.  
PIECES OF THREE PENNIES, TWO PENNIES, and ONE PENNIE. But these had both their heads in profile, looking the same way, and in the manner that writers upon medals call *capita jugata*; the king's head was laureat and nearer than the queen's, of whom he thereby took the right hand. Their style was GVLIELMVS. ET. MARIA. DEI. GRATIA.—MAG. BR. FR. ET. HI. REX. ET. REGINA. The arms of Nassau were placed instead of the garter star, in the center of the reverse of the four larger pieces, and

1689. All these pieces were handsomely coined with the king's head, style, and year of our Lord, and were charged on the reverse with a crown and two scepters in saltire, between the letters *J* and *R*, the value xxx. xii. or vi. above, and the month of coinage below. They were besides all edged, the half crowns with a foliage, and the two lesser pieces with a common graining. There are to be found half shillings from June 1689 to May 1690, shillings from July 1689 to June 1690, and half crowns from August 1689 to the same June 1690. But in April that last year, the necessity of the king's affairs had again obliged him to recall by proclamation the last mentioned brass money, when all the lesser pieces that were brought in were recoined, into half crowns, shillings, and half shillings, of the same form as the former, but of little more than half their weight: and the first half crowns being again stamped, were ordered to pass for five shillings each. This new stamp presented on the one side the king on horseback with his usual style, and on the reverse four crowned shields as upon the English five shilling pieces; with a crown in

the center, the motto CHRISTO. VICTORE. TRIUMPHO, round about, and ANO. DOM. 1690. cross the quarters. Of this brass money there was coined in a little more than a year, as Dr. King afterwards lord archbishop of Dublin informs us, 965,375*l.* when even that metal failing, there were coined, but not issued, in the latter end of June that same year 1690, five shilling pieces of pewter with a stud of brass or copper in the center, exactly like the last above described crown pieces of brass, but edged with the words MELIORIS. TESSERA. FATI. ANNO. REGNI. SEXTO. These pewter pieces are now very rare, but the proclamation by which they were intended to be made current, was, as we learn from Mr. Putland's letter in *Phil. Transf.* N<sup>o</sup>. 297, actually prepared; when the victory obtained by king William at the passage of the Boyne on the first of July, prevented the publication of it. The late king James quitted Ireland about three days after this defeat; and retiring a second time into France, he there afterwards deceased, at *St. Germain en Laye* near Paris, on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1701.

the

W. & M.  
1688.

the same had also an interlinked W and M in each of the four quarters, under which were stamped the four figures expressing the year of our Lord. Upon the four lesser pieces, whereon the king was represented with short hair, and both he and the queen with naked necks, the words *Dei gratia* were contracted into D. G. and the areas of the reverses were severally filled with the numeral figures 4, 3, 2, and 1, each respectively under a crown.

THERE were of the half crowns first coined in the year 1689 two sorts, both different from those above described in this particular, that they had upon their reverses the royal arms in a single plain escutcheon crowned. The arms on the one were only England, Scotland, Ireland, and France quarterly; but upon the other they were marshalled in the common way, France and England quarterly in the first and fourth quarters, Scotland in the second, and Ireland in the third; and both having Nassau upon an inescutcheon in the center.

WILL. III.  
1694.

QUEEN MARY deceased at Kensington, on friday the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1694. And the king after her death continued to coin the same moneys, but with his own head and style only: GVLIELMVS. III. DEI. GRA. —MAG. BR. FR. ET. HIB. REX. with the date, from 1694 to 1701, which was restored to its former place at the end of the legend. The interlinked W<sup>s</sup> and M<sup>s</sup> were besides omitted, in the quarters of the reverse of the larger pieces, which were again left blank: and his majesty's head upon the lesser ones was made exactly agreeable to the type of the larger.

THE old hammered silver money which was still current, tho' it had been long complained of, on account of its being diminished by the infamous practice of rounding and clipping, was about this time come to such a state, and the ill condition of it increased so fast; that there was an absolute necessity for the putting an effectual  
stop

stop to an evil, which rendered all trade and dealing between man and man precarious, and at last threatened no less, than the total destruction of all our silver coin. WILL. III.  
1694.

THE king accordingly in his speech to the parliament on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of November 1695, took notice of this calamity, and recommended it to the consideration of both houses, "as a matter of the most general concern" and the greatest importance." \* The lords on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the following December resolved upon an address to his majesty, "desiring him to issue out his proclamation, that from such a day or days as he should think fit, no clipped money of any sort should pass in payment as the current coin of this kingdom." And the 1695.

\* To what a degree the silver coin was at this time diminished, by the infamous practice of clipping, will best be apprehended from the following particulars. Mr. Lowndes in his *Essay for the amendment of silver coins*, p. 159. gives us a computation of the common weight of 100*l.* by tale in ordinary silver money, from a medium of the bags weighed at the receipt of exchequer in May, June, and July 1695. by which it appears that 572 such bags containing in tale 57,200 pounds, and which should, according to the law of the mint, have weighed 221,418 oz. 16 dwt. 8 gr. did only weigh 107,647 oz. 11 dwt. 8 gr. So that the medium of the weight of each hundred pounds was only 198 oz. 18 dwt. instead of 387 oz. 1 dwt. 22 gr. which the same should have weighed: and that there was consequently upon each hundred pounds at a medium, a deficiency of 188 oz. 3 dwt. 21 gr. in weight; making the value in money of 48*l.* 12*s.* and 4*d.* nearly. And again it appeared, by an account I have seen of Thomas Neale esq.

then master and worker of the mint, that the weight of 790,860*l.* 1 oz. 19 gr. coined out of the clipped silver money sent in from the exchequer, was the produce of 4,695,303*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* of the said money in tale: according to which account, there was at a medium a deficiency upon each hundred pounds of the said money, of 184 oz. 18 dwt. 16 gr. in weight; making the value in money of 47*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

But if the money was so much deficient at a medium, some of the particular pieces must have been yet more enormously diminished: and I have myself seen those that wanted full three fourths of their lawful weight. Which justifies what I have heard jocularly said, that there were half crowns then current in payment, that were each 7*s.* 6*d.* too light, by which it was meant that they were so defective, that one of them being put into the ballance wanted the addition of three more of the same sort, to make up the weight of 232 Troy grains and a quarter, which is nearly that of one undiminished half crown.

WILL. III. commons on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the same month came to the following resolutions.  
1695.

“ T H A T the most effectual way to put a stop to the mischief, which the nation suffered by the currency of clipt money, was, to recoin the same.” And therefore “ that all clipt money should be recoined, according to the established standard of the mint, both as to weight and fineness.”

“ T H A T the loss of such clipt money, as was silver, and coined at the lawful mint of this kingdom, should be borne by the public.”

“ T H A T a day or days should be appointed, after which no clipped crowns or half crowns, should be allowed in payment or to pass, except only to the collectors and receivers of his majesty’s revenues and taxes, or upon loans or payments into the exchequer.”

“ T H A T a day or days should be appointed, after which no clipt crowns or half crowns should pass in any payment whatsoever.”

“ T H A T all such crowns and half crowns, as they came into his majesty’s receipt, should be recoined into milled money.”

“ T H A T a day or days should be appointed, after which no money clipped within the ring, should be allowed in payment or to pass, except only to the collectors and receivers of his majesty’s revenues and taxes, or upon loans or payments into the exchequer.”

“ T H A T a day or days should be appointed, after which no money clipped within the ring should pass in any payment whatsoever.”

“ T H A T a day or days should be appointed, for all persons to bring in their clipped money to be recoined into milled money, after which no recompence should be made for the same.”

## ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

119

“ THAT a fund or funds should be settled, for supply-  
“ ing the deficiency of the clipped money.”

WILL. III.  
1695.

AND an address being presented in consequence of these resolutions, his majesty did by a proclamation of the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same month, reciting the before mentioned addresses of the two houses, “ command; that after the  
“ 1<sup>st</sup> of January then next ensuing no clipped crowns or  
“ half crowns should pass in any payment, except to his  
“ majesty’s collectors and receivers, *etc.* nor after the 3<sup>d</sup>  
“ of February in any payment whatsoever within Lon-  
“ don or forty miles thereof, nor after the 22<sup>d</sup> of Fe-  
“ bruary in any other part of the kingdom, and that  
“ after the 13<sup>th</sup> of February no shilling clipped within the  
“ ring should pass in any payment, except to his maje-  
“ sty’s collectors *etc.* nor after the 2<sup>d</sup> day of March in any  
“ payment whatsoever. And that after the said 2<sup>d</sup> day of  
“ March, no other money clipped within the ring should  
“ pass, except to his majesty’s collectors, *etc.* nor after  
“ the 2<sup>d</sup> day of April in any payment whatsoever.”

AND by another proclamation of the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January in the same year 1695, reciting the former and an address of the knights, citizens, and burgeses in parliament assembled, the receivers and collectors of his majesty’s taxes and revenues were “ strictly charged and com-  
“ manded, that until the said several days mentioned in  
“ the last proclamation, they should receive in payment  
“ all clipped money of the several denominations therein  
“ mentioned, that were of standard silver.”

BUT the acts of parliament prepared in the same session, *for the regulating and amending of the coin*, not passing so soon as was expected, and some farther indulgences to the present possessors of the clipped money having been granted by the same: his majesty did by a third proclamation of the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1696 declare, that  
“ whereas

WILL. III. 1696. “ whereas by an act of the present parliament, intituled,  
 “ *An act for the remedying the ill state of the coin of the*  
 “ *kingdom*, it was enacted, that the receivers general and  
 “ their severall deputies, and the collectors and other  
 “ officers intrusted with the receipt or collection of his  
 “ majesty’s revenues, or of any supplies, which were grant-  
 “ ed or which should be granted ; should and by the  
 “ said act were severally required, to accept and take in  
 “ payment all clipped moneys, being sterling silver mo-  
 “ ney, or being silver money of a coarser allay than the  
 “ standard, from all such persons as should tender the  
 “ same for such payments respectively, at any time be-  
 “ fore the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1696, at the same rate and value  
 “ as if such moneys were unclipped or undiminished ;  
 “ and should not refuse any piece or pieces of silver mo-  
 “ neys so tendered, by reason or on pretence of their being  
 “ worse or holding more allay than standard silver ; so as  
 “ such piece or pieces, did not evidently appear to be made  
 “ of copper or base metal plated over and washed with  
 “ silver only.” And that “ whereas by another act of  
 “ the same parliament, intituled, *An act for granting to*  
 “ *his majesty an aid of four shillings in the pound*, etc. it was  
 “ enacted, that it should be lawful for any persons who  
 “ should be assessed by vertue of the said act for any  
 “ manors, lands, *etc.* at any time before the 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
 “ May 1696, to satisfie and pay to the respective collec-  
 “ tors empowered to receive the first quarterly payment,  
 “ in clipped moneys, being sterling silver, or silver of a  
 “ worse allay than the standard, twice, three times, or  
 “ four times as much as should be assessable for the said  
 “ first quarterly payment for any such manors, *etc.* - - -  
 “ His majesty being desirous that all collectors and re-  
 “ ceivers should punctually observe the said directions,  
 “ and that all his loving subjects should have the full  
 “ benefit

“ benefit and advantage thereby intended them; and the  
 “ better to enable them to pay his taxes and revenues,  
 “ had thought fit to declare and command, and by and  
 “ with the advice of his privy council did by this his royal  
 “ proclamation declare and command” *etc.* agreeably to  
 the said recited acts of parliament.

WILL. III.  
1696.

AND it was further directed by the said *Act for the  
 remedying the ill state of the coin, 7 W. III. c. 1.* that,  
 “ whereas such of the coins of this realm as were for-  
 “ merly made with the hammer, and which remained  
 “ whole and unclipped, would be still liable to the pern-  
 “ cious crime of clipping and rounding; for the prevention  
 “ thereof, every person having unclipped hammered mo-  
 “ ney in his or her possession, should before the 10<sup>th</sup> day  
 “ of February 1695, or before they should dispose of  
 “ the same, cause such unclipped money to be struck  
 “ through about the middle of every piece with a solid  
 “ punch, that should make a hole without diminishing  
 “ of the silver: and that after the said 10<sup>th</sup> of February  
 “ no unclipped hammered money, that is to say, such  
 “ pieces as had both rings or the greatest part of the  
 “ letters appearing thereon, should be current, unless it  
 “ were so struck through. And that if any piece so struck  
 “ through should appear afterward to be clipped, no per-  
 “ son should tender or receive the same in payment, un-  
 “ der the penalty,” *etc.*

AND it was again provided by the same act, “ that  
 “ such mints as his majesty should erect for the greater  
 “ ease of his subjects in the remote parts of the kingdom,  
 “ not being less than four, should be under the methods  
 “ and directions prescribed by the same.”

THESE were some of the first steps taken by the pub-  
 lic to bring about this great and difficult affair, and to  
 prevent and guard against the excessive distress and cla-

WILL. III.  
1696.

mour that must have followed, if the clipped moneys had been, as some proposed, immediately and at once made current for their weight only. And as thereby the greatest part of the loss was thrown immediately upon the king, tho' it was afterwards made good to him by a tax, it was possibly this way as well divided, and as equally spread, as could well have been contrived.

WHEN the ill condition of the money, and the necessity of recoinng it was first taken into consideration; some were for changing the nominal values of the pieces, as if they had thought such new nominal values, would really give to those pieces a different and a greater worth than that which they had before. Among these was William Lowndes esq. who in an otherwise very useful book, intituled *A report containing an essay for the amendment of silver coins*, presented to the lords commissioners of his majesty's treasury on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1695, advanced this scheme; particularly proposing, that the piece of silver of the same goodness and weight as the undiminished crown piece, should for the time to come be current for six shillings and three pennies. But this was fully answered by the judicious John Locke esq. in his *Further considerations concerning raising the value of money*; in which, as well as in his former tract on the same subject and that *Of the lowering of interest*, he has treated of this affair and of every thing that had relation to it, in so clear, so strong, and so masterly a manner, as to carry conviction in every page, and leave nothing to be afterwards added, by such as should again attempt to reconsider the same matters.

AND now, that I have mentioned these two last pieces, I cannot but take notice also of an excellent discourse published a little before, by the reverend and learned Dr. William Fleetwood, afterwards lord bishop of Ely: I mean

mean his *Sermon against clipping*, preached before the lord mayor, *etc.* at Guild-hall chappel, on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1694, upon this text of *Gen. xxiii. 16. And Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver which he had named, in the audience of the sons of Hetb, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.* In which he with great judgment set before his audience, the nature and consequences of this pernicious practice; boldly inferred from the vast increase of it within a few years, that the avarice of greater and richer men than such as commonly suffered for it, must have been concerned in it; and wisely foresaw the calamities that must ensue, if the most prudent and considerate steps were not taken, in the applying of a remedy to so great an evil. “Who can tell,” said he, “whether every single person must not bear his own burthen, and stand to the loss of all that is wanting of due weight, of all the money he is master of? And if he must, the cry will be like that of Egypt, loud and universal, for every family will be a loser: But it will fall severest on the poor, who from a little can spare none.”

But to return to the business it self: immediately after the formentioned acts of parliament and proclamations, they began to melt down in the exchequer at Westminster all the clipped money that was brought in thither; and the same being cast into ingots was afterward sent to the Tower and coined, together with such other money and plate as was there also brought in by private importers. Besides which the king for the conveniency of the country erected five other mints, in the several cities of Bristol, Chester, Exeter, Norwich, and York: in which all the sums brought in, both by the collectors of the revenues and by private persons, were as soon as could be converted into current milled moneys. Thus was the affair finished,

WILL. III.  
1696.

WILL. III. finished, and above six millions and four hundred thousand pounds sterling were coined, in milled moneys of silver: and that in the space of about two years\*; for I find that the country mints were again broken up, before midsummer 1698.

THE pieces coined in those mints, were only half crowns, shillings and half shillings; which were distinguished from such as were minted in the Tower, by the several letters, B, C, E, N, and Y, respectively stamped under the king's head, upon every one of the said pieces.

\* *An abstract of the accounts of the great recoinage.*

Of the silver coined in the Tower of London from the 30 <sup>th</sup> day of September 1695 to the 31 <sup>st</sup> day of December 1699, there was in twelve general remains of clipped hammered silver moneys, taken in by the lords of the treasury, melted at Westminster into ten thousand nine hundred and thirty three ingots, and then sent to the mint; the weight of	}	l.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
		790,860	01	19	08

There was likewise of hammered money and wrought plate imported into the mint, and there melted; the weight of	}	l.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
		696,971	00	16	19

The hammered money and wrought plate imported into the five country mints, made in weight,

At Bristol,	—	—	—	146,977	00	00	00
At Chester,	—	—	—	101,660	00	00	00
At Exeter,	—	—	—	147,296	00	00	00
At Norwich,	—	—	—	83,040	00	00	00
At York,	—	—	—	99,023	00	00	00

The total of the hammered and clipped silver money, and of the wrought plate imported; amount- ed to the weight of	}	l.	oz.	dwt.	gr.
		2,065,827	02	16	03

Which makes at 3 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> the pound weight, the sum of 6,404,064 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> but which being coined somewhat lighter, tho' within the remedy allowed, produced really in tale, the sum of	}	l.	s.	d.
		6,435,039	14	09 27.

BUT

BUT as it was found that, notwithstanding the advantages given by the beforementioned acts of parliament to those who should bring in their hammered and clipped silver moneys to the several mints, a considerable quantity of those moneys was yet standing out after the days fixed for the bringing in of the same; and as the government was still willing to give some relief to those, who had through inadvertency or other accidents neglected to take the benefit of those acts: it was provided by another act of the next following session, 8 *W. III. c. 2.* that “for  
 “ the encouragement of all persons to bring in what re-  
 “ mained of their hammered silver money into his maje-  
 “ sty’s mints to be recoined; all such hammered silver  
 “ money, clipped or unclipped, as should be brought  
 “ after the fourth day of November 1696 and before the  
 “ first day of July 1697 to any of his majesty’s mints,  
 “ should be there received, at the rate of five shillings  
 “ and four pence *per* ounce for every ounce Troy.” And  
 further, “that all his majesty’s receivers and collectors  
 “ should from the said 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1696 to the 1<sup>st</sup>  
 “ day of June then following 1697, receive all such ham-  
 “ mered silver coin, at the rate of five shillings and eight  
 “ pence for every ounce Troy.” After which no further  
 encouragement was to be allowed, but the same being  
 sterling silver was only to be received, as it already was  
 elsewhere, at the intrinsic value of five shillings and two  
 pennies the ounce.

AND whereas in order to promote the bringing in of  
 silver bullion to the mint, towards the making good the de-  
 ficiency in the weight of the clipped moneys; the use of all  
 wrought silver plate, spoons only excepted, had by an act of  
 the last session of parliament, 7 & 8 *W. III. c. 19.* been  
 prohibited in all public houses, under penalty of the forfei-  
 ture thereof: it was further provided by an act made this

WILL. III. session, 8 & 9 *W. III. c. 8*, that “ for the better encouragement of all persons, to bring in their wrought plate  
 1696. “ to be coined into the lawful coin of the realm ; all persons who should so bring in any wrought plate, between  
 “ the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1696 and the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1697, should be paid for such plate, at the rate  
 “ of five shillings and four pence the ounce Troy, without  
 “ any deduction for solder, unless for such solder as should  
 “ be in any hollow part of the same.”

Now in the last place, it may here be further observed concerning this affair ; that upon the first apprehensions that the light and clipped moneys would be called in, and before it was well known what might become of those that should have large quantities of it remaining in their hands, the twenty shilling pieces of gold commonly called guineas, which had frequently even before the death of king Charles the second passed for two and twenty shillings, and which were at this time almost the only species of coin that could be come at and be depended upon, rose excessively in their price ; and became current, first for twenty-five shillings, and at last for thirty shillings each. This was however thought to carry with it a considerable inconvenience ; and “ great quantitys of gold having lately been imported  
 “ from foreign parts, and coined into guineas, which being on occasion of the ill state of the silver coin, taken  
 “ by the subjects at very high and unreasonable rates :” it was apprehended “ that the continuance of this practice if not prevented, would run the nation vastly in  
 “ debt to foreigners, for the repayment whereof the silver moneys of the kingdom must inevitably be exhausted,  
 “ on terms of very great disadvantage.” Wherefore it was enacted, 7 & 8 *W. III. c. 13*. that “ from the 2<sup>d</sup>.  
 “ day of March 1695 till the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1696,  
 “ there should not be any obligation of receiving into his  
 “ majesty’s

“ majesty’s mints to be coined, any gold whatsoever; nor should the officers of the said mints be obliged to coin any gold within the time aforesaid; and that the recompences appointed by the statute of the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of king Charles the second and other subsequent statutes, should be applied to the use of the silver mints:” and by the same act, the importation of guineas and half guineas from abroad was also prohibited for the same time.

WILL. III.  
1696.

AND it had been provided by another act of the same session of parliament, *cap.* 10. that “ for the preventing the further increase of the rate of coined gold, and to prevent the mischiefs which might befall; no persons should after the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1696, receive take or pay any of the pieces of gold commonly called guineas, at any greater or higher rate than twenty-six shillings for each guinea; nor exceed the same in proportion for the pieces of gold called half guineas, double guineas, and five pound pieces; under the penalty of forfeiting for every offence, double the value of the gold so received or paid” *etc.* But it was at the same time declared, “ that nothing in the said act contained, should extend or be construed to the compelling of any person to receive any guineas, at the said rate of twenty-six shillings.” And by a clause in a third act of the same session, *cap.* 19. it was yet further enacted, “ that from and after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1696, no persons should utter or receive any of the pieces of gold coin called guineas, at any higher or greater rate or value, than twenty two shillings for each guinea.”

By these means, and by the successful proceeding in the coinage of the silver, that sort of money grew more plentiful, and guineas fell again in their price. Insomuch that some merchants having in the following September 1696,  
petitioned

WILL. III. petitioned the lords justices, the king being then abroad,  
1696. for leave to coin at the mint at their own expence, certain quantities of gold they could not then with convenience export: their excellencies were pleased to allow thereof, and by an order of the 24<sup>th</sup> of the same month, to “direct the officers of the mint to receive and coin, “at the expence of the proprietors, any gold bullion “that should be brought to the mint, after the first day “of October then next ensuing.”

THE parliament also thought proper in their next session, to repeal the act passed the last concerning the coinage of gold, and to allow by a new act, 8 *W.* III. *c.* 1. the importation of guineas as formerly; and to direct the officers of the mint, from the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1696, to proceed as before, in the coinage of such gold as should from thenceforward be brought in. And it is recited in the preamble of the said act, “that “the former was occasioned by the high and unusual “price of guineas, which were now again reduced to “or near their standard.”

SOON after this guineas came to settle at the price of one and twenty shillings and six pennies: and at that rate they continued to pass, till they were brought down to their present value of one and twenty shillings, by the proclamation of the 22<sup>d</sup> of December 1717, in the fourth year of the reign of his late majesty king George the first.

1701. KING William deceased at Kensington, on sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1701, and her royal highness, the then princess Anne of Denmark, was proclaimed queen the same day\*.

## QUEEN

\* There was coined in the Tower of London during the joint reign of king William and queen Mary; that is to say, from the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1688 to the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1694.

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

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QUEEN Anne coined of silver THE SAME MONEYS and of the same form as those of king William; excepting that the arms of Nassau in the center of the four larger pieces were now omitted, and that in their room the garter star was again replaced. Her majesty's head was very grace-

ANNE  
1701.

	l.	s.	d.
In crown gold, the weight of 9,962 l. 8 oz. 0 dwt. 14 gr. making in money, at 44 l. 10 s. the pound weight, the value of	443,338	15	06
In sterling silver during the same time, the weight of 251,492 l. 4 oz. 18 dwt. 8 gr. making in money, at 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, the sum of	79,026	09	04 3/4.
Total value of all the money both gold and silver, coined during the joint reign of king William and queen Mary,	522,365	04	10 3/4.
There was coined during the remaining part of the reign of king William after the queen's death; in crown gold in the Tower of London, from the 29 <sup>th</sup> day of February 1694 to the 8 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1701, the weight of 66,866 l. 3 oz. 14 dwt. 11 gr. making in money, at the aforesaid rate of 44 l. 10 s. the pound weight, the value of	2,975,550	16	01 1/4.
In sterling silver, during the same time; in the Tower the weight of 1,684,600 l. 0 oz. 19 dwt. 6 gr. and in the five country mints the weight of 577,996, making together the weight of 2,262,596 l. 0 oz. 19 dwt. 6 gr. and which produced in money, at the aforesaid rate of 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, the sum of	7,014,047	16	11 3/4.
Total value of all the moneys both of gold and silver, coined from the decease of queen Mary to the decease of the king.	9,989,598	13	01
And the whole value of all the same moneys coined from the king's accession to his death, amounted to the sum of	10,511,963	17	11 3/4.

ANNE  
1701.

gracefully represented bare and in profile, her hair bound with a fillet and tied up in a knot behind: and her style was upon all the pieces ANNA. DEI. GRATIA.——MAG.

1702.

BRI. FR. ET HIB. REGINA. 1702. In which same year war having been declared against France and Spain on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, several Spanish Galleons and the town of Vigo in Galicia were taken by her majesty's fleet and land forces, under the command of Sir George Rook and the duke of Ormond in the month of October following: from whence part of the treasure taken was soon after brought to the Tower and there coined; all the several pieces both of gold and silver being stamped with the name of VIGO. under the queen's head, as a distinction of them from her other moneys.

1707.

IN the year 1707, the Union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland being compleated, and taking place on the first day of May; there was thereupon an alteration made in the royal arms, as represented on the money: England and Scotland being from that time impaled together in the first and third of the four crowned shields, in the second of which France was now placed, and Ireland in the fourth. All the old silver money of Scotland was also upon the same occasion recoined into money of Great Britain, exactly the same as that coined in England, and

It may be observed, that in the memorial presented to the lords of the treasury, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1717, by Sir Isaac Newton kn<sup>t</sup>. then master and worker of his majesty's mint, and upon which the reduction of guineas presently after, from one and twenty shillings and six pennies to one and twenty shillings, was founded; there occurs the following paragraph.

“ At the same time,” that is to say in the last year of king William, “ the

“ *Lewidors* of France, which were  
“ worth but 17*s.* and three farthings  
“ a piece, passed in England at 17*s.*  
“ 6*d.* I gave notice thereof to the  
“ lords commissioners of the treasury,  
“ and his late majesty put out a pro-  
“ clamation that they should go but  
“ at 17*s.* and thereupon they came  
“ to the mint, and 1,400,000 were  
“ coined out of them.”

Which accounts for the large coinages of gold about that time.

only

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS.

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only distinguishable from it, by the letter E. for Edinburgh, stamped upon all the pieces under her majesty's head\*.

ANNE  
1707.

THE queen deceased at Kensington on Sunday the first day of August 1714, and his late majesty king George the first, then elector of Brunswick, was proclaimed the same day.

THE silver moneys of king George the first were THE SAME as those of queen Anne, and of the same form; excepting that his head was again adorned with laurel, like those of his predecessors, king Charles the second, king James the second, and king William; and that upon the reverse of the crowns, half crowns, shillings, and half shilling, the arms of Brunswick, Lunenburg, *etc.* used by his majesty as elector, were placed in the last of the four crowned shields, the third of which was now given to Ireland. The king's

GEORGE I.  
1714.

\* There was coined in the Tower of London during the reign of queen Anne; that is to say, from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1701 to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 1714.

	l.	s.	d.
In crown gold the weight of 55,832 l. 2 oz. } making in money at the rate of 44 l. 10 s. the } pound weight, the value of — — —	2,484,531	08	04
And in sterling silver, the weight of 66,804 l. } 9 oz. 15 dwt. which produced in money, at the rate } of 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, the sum of — — —	207,094	18	04 2q.
Total value of both sorts — — —	2,691,626	06	08 2q.

It may be noted, that it appears by the particulars of the accounts from which the foregoing extract was taken; that in the years 1709 and 1711, during which the greatest coinages of silver were made in this reign, there was coined out of wrought plate brought in upon encouragement, the weight of 46,156 l. 11 oz. 2 dwt. 3 gr. making in value about 144,000 l. sterling; which was more than two thirds of all the silver coined in the Tower, from

her majesty's accession to her decease.

But there was further coined in this reign at Edinburgh upon the Union, and by the English moneyers sent down thither, the weight of 103,346 l. making in tale at the aforesaid rate of 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight, the sum of 320,372 l. 12 s. sterling money; all which I take to have been of their first coinage, in the year 1707 or the very beginning of 1708. Besides which there was again a second

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GEORGE I. king's style was also enlarged, *Fidei Defensor* being added to his English titles, which were all stamped on the one side, as his foreign ones were on the other; GEORGIVS. D. G. M. BR. FR. ET. HIB. REX. F.D. --- BRVN. ET L. DVX. S. R. I. A: TH. ET. EL. 1714. But none of these additional titles were ever inscribed on any of the pieces less than the half shilling; all the smaller coins being left agreeable to the types of those minted in the time of king William the third.

IT may be noted in this place, that upon some of the guineas that were first coined, his majesty was styled PR.. EL. but presently after the letters PR. were omitted: and as I have heard for this reason, that this part of the style was thought too like that peculiar to the elector archbishop of Mentz, who claims, as great chancellor of the empire, the first place in the electoral college\*.

KING

second coinage soon after, and before the end of the last mentioned year 1708, when some silver could not conveniently be minted before, was also like the other converted into current money of Great Britain: but of this last coinage I have met with no particular account.

\* There was coined in the Tower of London, during the reign of king George the first, that is to say, from the 2<sup>d</sup> day of August 1714 to the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1727.

In crown gold, the weight of 184,763 l. which computed at 46 l. 14 s. 6 d. the pound weight; guineas having been settled and made current at 21 s. each, by his majesty's proclamation of the 22 <sup>d</sup> of December 1717, and being therefore no longer esteemed as pieces of twenty shillings but of one and twenty shillings each, in the mint; produced after that rate in money, the value of	}	l.      s.      d.
	}	8,492,876    03    06

In sterling silver, the weight of 75,176 l. making in money, at the rate of 3 l. 2 s. the pound weight; the sum of	}	233,045    12    00
	}	<hr/>

And the total value both of the gold and the silver amounted to	}	8,725,921    15    06
	}	<hr/>

# ENGLISH SILVER COINS. 133

KING George the first departed this life at Osnabrug <sup>GEORGE I.</sup> in Germany, on sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1727: but <sup>1727.</sup> the news not reaching England before the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>, his present majesty, then prince of Wales, was not proclaimed king till the next day, being thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same month of June 1727.

HIS majesty's moneys of silver are the same in all re- <sup>GEORGE II.</sup> spects and of the same form, as those of the king his fa- <sup>1727.</sup> ther: except that his style is differently disposed and contracted upon the four larger pieces: the words GEORGIVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. only, being inscribed round the head, and all his other titles as formerly about the reverse. M. B. F. ET. H. REX. F. D. B. ET. L. D. S. R. I. A. T. ET. E. 1727. The four lesser pieces are every way like those of the late king\*.

As

It may be observed that in the year 1718, and then only, there were coined some quarter guineas: when the weight of 110*l.* in gold was converted into such pieces, of which it consequently produced about 19,580 in tale.

\* His present majesty did by a proclamation of the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1732, prohibit all persons from receiving or uttering in payment by tale, any of the gold coins commonly called broad pieces of twenty-five shillings or twenty-three shillings, and any halves or quarters of the same: and on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month he did further by warrant under his sign manual, in consequence of an address of the house of commons, authorize the master of the mint to receive the said pieces, to pay for them after the rate of 4*l.* 1*s.* per ounce Troy, and to coin them with all con-

venient speed into the now current gold moneys. Whereupon there was of those pieces imported into the mint and there coined, between the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 1733 and the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 1734, the weight of 15,482*l.* 5*oz.* 4*dwt.* 8*gr.* which produced in current money at the rate of 46*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* the pound weight, the value of 723,416*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*

The gold then coined consisted properly, of the scepter'd units of crown gold of king James the first, which weighing originally almost 154 grains had been for a great while current at twenty-five shillings each; of the laureat twenty shilling pieces of the same prince, and of those of his son and grandson king Charles the first and king Charles the second, which having formerly weighed above 140 grains had also been long current at twenty-three shillings each; and of

L 1

such

## A T A B L E O F

As among the moneys of king James the first and king Charles the first, those coined out of the Welsh silver were distinguished from the others; the like has also been practised in the moneys coined by the mill and press. There being pieces of king Charles the second with the Welsh feathers, both under the head, and in the center of the reverse: and others that have a rose under the head, which is the distinction, as I am informed, of the silver drawn from the lead mines that are in the western parts of England.

such as remained of the commonwealth pieces called the crosses and harp gold, which were of the same weight and value as the last. But as several coins of king Edward the sixth, some of queen Elizabeth, and the first scepter'd sovereigns of king James, were tho' of different weights yet of the same allay, they were also taken in by weight with the rest: whereas all the coins of angel gold, which were worth more by the ounce than the premium allowed, were again returned to the importers, by the gentlemen of the mint who had the inspection of them; when any such, as it sometimes happened, were by mistake brought in.

The villainous and fraudulent art of diminishing guineas by the filing of their edges, which is said to have begun soon after the recoinage of the hammered money had defeated the former pernicious practice of clipping, was about this time come to such a height as to require the particular notice of the government: and his majesty did accordingly in the year 1738, offer considerable rewards for the discovering any of the persons that were concerned in this offence; some of which were soon after apprehended and convicted of it. But as the preven-

tion of such an evil for the time to come, was judged to be of the greatest importance to the public; it was considered how such an alteration might be made in the form, or in the manner of coining of the guineas, as might render them less capable of being thus diminished. And for this purpose, the strait sloping strokes upon their edges were in the year 1740 exchanged for others of an arched or serpentine form, which could not without the greatest difficulty be either followed or counterfeited with a common file. The letters of the legend were also at the same time set nearer to the edge, than they had been upon some of the former guineas, and the graining round about the flat sides, was made narrower than it was before. These improvements were at this time suggested by the reverend Mr. Peter Vallavine of the Isle of Thanet, who had several conferences with the officers of the mint upon the occasion, and who in a small but very ingenious tract published soon after, and intitled *Observations on the present condition of the current coin of this kingdom*, has made several useful and judicious remarks upon our moneys of all sorts, and the means of preserving them from being unlawfully diminished.

There are besides coins of the same king, crowns, half crowns, and shillings with the figure of an elephant under his head, denoting silver brought in by the African merchants; whose gold has constantly been impressed also with the same distinction. All that I have seen of these African pieces of silver bear date in the year 1666.

IN the time of king William, the money from the Welsh mines was marked with four plumes of feathers in the quarters between the crowned shields on the reverse; and the other sort with as many roses in the same places, both which have been continued to the present time: and these two sorts of silver being frequently brought to the mint together, the money of such coinages has usually been marked with both roses and feathers, placed alternately in the quarters of the same piece.

THE South-sea company brought in a quantity of silver to be coined in the time of the late king, which was marked with S: S. s and C<sup>s</sup>. alternately in the quarters: as some from the Welsh copper company was with alternate feathers and double linked C<sup>s</sup> in the same places, and the letters W. C. C. under the king's head besides.

THERE has also been gold coined by the East-India company, in the time of the present king, upon which the letters E. I. C. are stamped under his majesty's head.

OUR kings had anciently a duty of *seigneurage* upon all the gold and silver that was coined in their mints, and the masters and workers had also certain fees from the merchants who brought in bullion, for their charges and trouble in the coinage of the same. But by an act of parliament of the 18<sup>th</sup> of king Charles the second *cap. 5.* intituled *An act for encouraging of coinage*, it was provided that "whatsoever person, native or foreigner, should  
" bring any foreign-coin, plate, or bullion, or any manu-  
" facture of gold or silver, into his majesty's mint to be  
" coined,

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“ coined, should have the same assayed and coined with  
 “ all convenient speed, without any diminution or charge  
 “ for the assaying, coinage, or waste; so that for every  
 “ pound Troy of crown or standard gold, there should  
 “ be delivered out a pound Troy of current coin of crown  
 “ gold; and for every pound Troy of sterling or standard  
 “ silver, there should be delivered out a pound Troy of  
 “ current coins of sterling.” And there was granted  
 by the same act a duty upon wines imported, for the  
 “ answering and defraying the charges of the mint, and  
 “ the encouragement of the bringing in of gold and sil-  
 “ ver to be coined.”

THE duty of *seigneurage* to the king, was somewhat different at different times, and so were the fees to the masters and workers. All the particulars are of no consequence in this place: but I shall observe that from the 19<sup>th</sup> of Henry the seventh, when the pound Tower of old standard gold was coined into 22 *l.* 10 *s.* by tale, and the like pound of old sterling silver into 37 *s.* and 6 *d.* to the 18<sup>th</sup> of Henry the eighth; the king had for every such pound weight of gold 7 *s.* 6 *d.* and for every pound weight of silver 1 *s.* out of which he allowed to the master *etc.* 22 *d.* for the gold and 10 *d.* for the silver.

AND this was not greatly altered till Henry the eighth in his 34<sup>th</sup> year took upon every parcel of gold a twenty-fourth part, and upon every parcel of silver a sixth part of the whole; out of which indeed as before, he allowed the fees and charges of the master. The same prince again in his 36<sup>th</sup> year took on the same conditions a twelfth part of the gold, and better than two fifths of the silver; and lastly in his 37<sup>th</sup> year, more than a seventh part of the gold: for he then coined twelve ounces Troy of fine gold into thirty six pounds, for which the importer received only thirty pounds and twelve shillings,  
 so

so that there remained with himself and his officers five pounds and eight shillings.

KING Edward the sixth in his third year took of the gold only a four and thirtieth part; and for that reason a considerable quantity of it seems to have been then coined: but he took at the same time, out of every twelve ounces of fine silver, which was then coined into 7*l.* 4*s.* for himself and the officers four pounds. Yet in his sixth year, when the great reformation of the money was made, this particular was again brought into a very moderate compass: the king taking upon the pound weight of old standard gold then coined into 36*l.* by tale, for *seigneurage* and all charges 2*s.* 9*d.* only; upon the pound weight of crown gold 3 shillings; and upon every eleven ounces of fine silver then coined into 60 shillings, no more than one shilling.

BUT not long after, this duty was again somewhat increased; and I find that in the forty-third year of queen Elizabeth, when the present standard of the silver moneys was finally established, the queen took upon the pound weight of angel gold then coined into 36*l.* 10*s.* for her own *seigneurage* 5*s.* 3*d.* and for the fees and charges of the master 4*s.* 9*d.* that upon the pound weight of crown gold coined into 33*l.* 10*s.* the queen had 3*s.* 3*d.* and the master 5*s.* 9*d.* and that upon every pound weight of old sterling silver coined into 3*l.* 2*s.* there remained with the queen 8*d.* and with the master 16*d.* for his fees and charges in coining of the same. Besides which there was also introduced in the latter end of her time, and continued during the first seventeen years of the reign of king James, a practice of delivering the money coined, not by weight as directed in the old statutes, but by tale only: whereby there arose over and above the *seigneurage*, and which was accounted for together with it, a small profit upon the shear of the

moneys; which was before taken notice of in the 74<sup>th</sup> page of these papers.

Now as it is impossible that any moneys can with the strictest exactness, be made agreeable in every particular to a certain standard, there has constantly been allowed from old time a small latitude in our mints, which is called the remedy for the master; whose moneys, if coined within this remedy, were by his indentures to be delivered as good; and he was to be held excusable at the trial of his pix, notwithstanding the same were there reported either too base, or too light, or both, provided that such imperfection and deficiency were together found less than what the said remedy amounted to. The quantity of this remedy has never greatly varied since the 18<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the third, when the solemn trial of the pix was first instituted: and the same has almost constantly been the value of the eighth part of a carat, or of thirty grains of fine gold in weight, upon the pound weight of old standard gold; and the value of two penny weight of fine silver, upon the pound weight of old sterling silver; that is to say, the one hundred and ninety-first part of the value upon the gold, and the one hundred and eleventh part of the same upon the silver. But as to the crown gold, or the gold of the new standard first introduced in the eighteenth year of king Henry the eighth, and which is the only sort of gold that has been coined since the year 1642; the remedy still allowed is the value of one sixth part of a carat, or of forty grains of fine gold in weight, upon the pound weight of such standard gold; that is to say, the one hundred and thirty second part of the value of the money that is coined of the same gold. All which remedies are contained, as I am told, within as narrow limits as any workers, intending to coin up to the true standard appointed, can reasonably be supposed

supposed to make themselves answerable for, with any degree of safety.

As the way the profile head of the sovereign is made to look upon the money, and the returning it from time to time the contrary way, are particulars often taken notice of; it is necessary that a word or two should be said about them: and I have rather chosen to do it here once for all, than when I was before describing the particular pieces, that the several variations which have been made from time to time may thus be set before the reader all together. But in order to be understood, I must first observe, that I use the words right and left in the same sense as these words are applied by the heralds, in the blazoning of the several parts of a shield: considering a coin I am looking upon, as I would a person I were talking with, and of whom I should say that he turned to the right, when he so turned himself as to shew me the left side of his face only, or contrariwise that he turned to the left when the right side only of his face was seen by me. This being premised, I shall now take notice that all the profile heads of Henry the seventh and Henry the eighth, which are only upon the shillings, groats and half groats of the former, and upon the sterling groats and half groats of the latter, are constantly turned to the left: and that the head of king Edward the sixth is also turned the same way upon all his profile moneys; which were his first half sovereigns of crown gold, with their quarters and half quarters; the sovereigns of like gold of his sixth year with their parts; and all his testons, groats, and half groats of base silver. His horse was also represented upon his crown pieces and half crown pieces, as going on the same way to the left. The head of queen Mary looks to the right, upon her groats, half groats, and pennies of sterling silver: and so does that upon her shillings and half shillings,

shillings, upon which she is drawn looking towards king Philip, whose head is turned contrariwise to the left. Queen Elizabeth looks to the right like her sister, upon all her coins of crown gold and of silver, her half pennies only excepted, upon which her head is not represented. King James the first is turned to the left upon all the coins of crown gold that have his head; the laureat broad pieces and their parts excepted, whereon his head is again returned the contrary way. His face is also turned to the left, upon his shillings and half shillings of silver, and upon his first two pennie pieces and pennies. Upon his crown pieces and half crown pieces he rides the same way; and the like is to be understood of all his moneys minted in Scotland, after his accession to the English throne. King Charles's English moneys are contrary to those of the king his father, and he looks to the right upon all his coins whether of gold or silver whereon his person is exhibited, some proof pieces only excepted, which do not so properly fall under the present consideration. He also rides to the left whenever he is drawn on horseback; and the same is true of all his Scottish pieces, his scepter'd sovereigns excepted, and some of the halves of the same that have the motto HENRICVS. ROSAS. REGNA. IACOBVS. upon which, contrary to all his other coins whether of gold or silver, his head is turned to the left. The head of Oliver the protector was turned to the right upon all his pieces, and so was that of the lord Baltimore upon the money coined by him in Maryland. That of king Charles the second was also turned the same way, upon all his hammered money, upon his first milled units of gold, milled groats, and lesser pieces of silver marked with a crown; and upon his dollars and their parts minted in Scotland: but upon all his other moneys both of gold and silver coined in England by the mill,  
and

and upon his four mark pieces, *etc.* coined in Scotland, his head was again turned the contrary way and looked to the left. The face of king James the second was returned to the right, those of king William and queen Mary, and king William alone to the left; and that of queen Anne again to the right, upon all their moneys coined in England: but the contrary way respectively upon all those minted in Scotland, before the completion of the Union in 1707. The head of king George the first was again represented as looking to the left: and lastly that of his present majesty is upon all his coins whatsoever returned to the right.

HAVING now gone through those observations I had to make upon our English silver coins, from the Norman conquest to the present time, I shall here add as a general abstract of the foregoing pages, and of what I principally designed should be contained in them; a short table exhibiting at one view, the standard of our silver money as to goodness, together with the true weight of 240 pennies, 60 groats, or 20 shillings, making the pound sterling in tale; and the present intrinsic value of so much silver, as was respectively contained in the same pound sterling, at the several times there noted in the first column. To which I have also added in the last column, the same intrinsic value of the nominal pound sterling, expressed in decimals of our present sterling pound: whereby the proportion of the intrinsic value of any former sums of money mentioned in books, to the intrinsic value of so much money as is now called by the same appellation, may immediately be known; and the prices of provisions, labour, and materials, in former times, may readily be compared with the different prices, which the like provisions, labour, and materials, are found to bear at this day.

## A T A B L E O F

Year of the King's reign and A. D.		Standard of the silv.	Weight of xx lb. in tale.			Value of the same in present money.			Proportion.
			oz.	dwt.	gr.	l.	s.	d.	
CONQUEST	1066	Old Ster.	11	05	00	2	18	01 2 q.	2.906
28 EDW. I.	1300	- - -	11	02	05	2	17	05	2.871
18 EDW. III.	1344	- - -	10	03	00	2	12	05 1 q.	2.622
20 SAME.	1346	- - -	10	00	00	2	11	08	2.583
27 SAME.	1353	- - -	9	00	00	2	06	06	2.325
13 HEN. IV.	1412	- - -	7	10	00	1	18	09	1.937
4 EDW. IV.	1464	- - -	6	00	00	1	11	00	1.55
18 HEN. VIII.	1527	- - -	5	06	16	1	07	06 3 q.	1.378
			oz. dwt.						
34 SAME.	1543	W. 1 2	5	00	00	1	03	03 1 q.	1.163
36 SAME.	1545	W. 5 2	-	-	-	0	13	11 2 q.	0.698
37 SAME.	1546	W. 7 2	-	-	-	0	09	03 3 q.	0.466
3 EDW. VI.	1549	W. 5 2	3	06	16	-	-	-	-
5 SAME.	1551	W. 8 2	-	-	-	0	04	07 3 q.	0.232
6 SAME.	1552	W. 0 1	4	00	00	1	00	06 3 q.	1.028
1 MARY	1553	W. 0 2	-	-	-	1	00	05 3 q.	1.024
2 ELIZ.	1560	Old Ster.	-	-	-	1	00	08	1.033
43 SAME.	1601	- - -	3	17	10	1	00	00	1.000

Now by a comparison of the foregoing *Table of silver coins*, with the *Table of gold coins* formerly published, it appears, that in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the third 1353, when the first considerable coinage of gold was made in England; fine gold was rated in our coins, at eleven times and about one sixth part, as much as fine silver. But even this value of gold was thought too great in the time of king Henry the fourth; and the same being complained of, by the regulations made in his 13<sup>th</sup> year 1412, gold came to be exchanged for ten times and about one third of an equal quantity of silver. In the 4<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward the fourth 1464, gold was again valued at a little more than eleven times the price of silver. During the 140 years next following, there

was

was scarce any alteration made in the proportional value of the two metals; excepting only in the times of confusion between the 34<sup>th</sup> year of king Henry the eighth and the last of king Edward the sixth: and by the indentures of the 43<sup>d</sup> year of queen Elizabeth and those of the first of king James 1603, the pound weight of fine gold in the coin was yet rated at somewhat less than eleven pound weight of fine silver. But soon after that time the price of gold was very sensibly advanced, the pound weight of it being valued in the indentures of the 2<sup>d</sup> year of king James, at better than twelve pounds and an ounce; and in the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same king, at more than thirteen pounds, four ounces, and three pennie-weight, of fine silver. When guineas came first to be coined for twenty shilling pieces, in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of king Charles the second 1663, the pound of fine gold was therein made equivalent to fourteen pounds, five ounces, sixteen pennie-weight, and nine grains of fine silver; which value, by the running of guineas as they now do for one and twenty shillings each, is yet further advanced to fifteen pounds, two ounces, ten pennie-weight and seven grains of the same silver.

A P P E N-

# A P P E N D I X

Concerning the

COINS MINTED IN SCOTLAND,

S I N C E

*The Union of the two Crowns.*

JAMES VI.  
1603.

**T**HE affairs of the two nations of England and Scotland became so nearly connected, by the Union of the two crowns in the person of king James the first of Great Britain; that it may possibly neither be unacceptable to the reader, nor seem foreign to the design of the foregoing pages, if I here add a short account of the several moneys that have been coined in Scotland, since the time that king James succeeded to the English throne, upon the decease of queen Elizabeth on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1602. In order to a right understanding of which, it must be observed, that although the pounds, shillings, and pennies of Scotland, have ever borne the same proportion to each other as the pounds, shillings, and pennies of England have done; yet was the pound in tale of England, and commonly called in Scotland the pound sterling to distinguish it from the other, very nearly if not exactly equal to twelve pounds in tale Scottish, at the time when the Union took place. For king James did, by proclamation a few days after his accession, cause the gold SIX POUND PIECE of Scotland to be current

rent in England for ten shillings sterling\* ; and the JAMES VI. 1603. MARK PIECE of silver of the value of thirteen shillings and four pennies Scotch, to be current here for thirteen pennies and a half pennie sterling: at which value the last of these pieces, with the half of the same in proportion, continued to be commonly paid and received, until the general recoinage of all the hammered money in the year 1696.

THE degrees by which this disproportion increased between the pounds in tale of the two nations, and by which the pound Scotch fell so much faster than the English from its original value, that of a pound weight or of twelve ounces of silver, are beside the present purpose to en-

\* These six pound pieces of gold Scotch, were the last of king James's gold moneys struck in Scotland, before he succeeded to the English crown: and we learn by the proclamation above quoted, which was dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1603, that these pieces were of the fineness of 22 carats, and that six of them weighed an ounce Scotch. The weight therefore of each piece was about 78 Troy grains and a half, and they fell short almost seven and a half like grains, of the weight of the half sovereign of queen Elizabeth that was of the same alloy. But gold was then supposed to be too cheap in England; and the inconvenience that arose from the exchanging of the six pound piece Scotch for the half sovereign and angel of queen Elizabeth was soon after removed, by the new coins that were published on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1604.

These six pound pieces had on one side the royal shield of Scotland crowned, with the king's style *JACOBVS. 6. D. G. R. SCOTORVM.* and

on the other, a scepter and a sword crossed in saltire between two thistle flowers, with a crown above, and the date 1601 or 1602 below; the legend *SALVS. POPVLI. SVPREMA. LEX.* There were also pieces of three pounds Scotch, excepting in their size and weight, exactly the same as these six pound pieces.

The Scotch mark piece of silver, made also current in England at the same time, was of the fineness of eleven ounces; and four such pieces and a half were cut out of the ounce Scotch: whence the weight of each piece appears to have been that of 104 Troy grains and three fourths nearly, and the value not to have sensibly differed from that of thirteen and a half English pennies.

These mark pieces with their halves, quarters, and half quarters, had on one side the royal shield crowned with the king's style round about; and on the other the crowned thistle with this motto *REGEM. IOVA. PROTEGIT.* 1602. Others of them were dated 1601, and 1603.

JAMES VI.  
1603.

quire. Yet may it not be improper to take notice, that the old pennies of king William the first, king Alexander the second, and the like, did not sensibly differ from those of their cotemporary kings of England before Edward the first: and that notwithstanding the pennies of Scotland had already, like those of England, lost somewhat of their first weight in the time of our king Edward the third; it was not till the 29<sup>th</sup> year of that prince, that any public notice was taken of the inequality between the moneys of the two nations; and which inequality could not then be very great, since we find that twenty years after, the groat of Scotland was still allowed to be current in England for three English pennies.

1604.

BUT to return to the moneys coined in Scotland after the union of the crowns; king James who was desirous that the same moneys should be current through both kingdoms, did by a proclamation of the 16<sup>th</sup> of November in the 2<sup>d</sup> year of his reign \*, establish the several pieces therein described, “to be among others before used, the “moneys current, for his kingdom of Great Britain:” and those were of gold, the UNIT commonly called the SCEPTER, the DOUBLE CROWN, the BRITAIN CROWN,

\* We further learn from the same proclamation, the proportions of the Scottish weights to the English, it being there noted, “that the pound weight English, being twelve ounces Troy, doth overpoix the pound weight [*twelve ounces*] of Scotland, “four penie weight and nine grains English.” Whence it appears that the Scottish ounce was equal to 471 Troy grains and a quarter: and this ounce was divided by the mint into 24 deniers, each denier into 24 grains, each grain into 24 primes, each prime into 24 seconds and so forth; but by the silver-smiths, into 16 parts only

called drops, and each drop into 36 grains. Fine gold was called in Scotland gold of 24 carats; and fine silver, silver of 12 deniers: but they subdivided in this case both the carat and the denier, each into 24 grains.

The Scottish ounce here intended was the Trois ounce, considered in the mint as the twelfth part of the moneys pound: tho’ every where else sixteen such ounces were said to make a Trois pound: besides which they have from old time had in Scotland another lighter pound, which they called the pound Scottish, and which was only equal to fifteen of the same ounces.

the

## MODERN SCOTISH COINS. 147

the THISTLE CROWN, and the HALF CROWN; running severally for 20 shillings, 10 shillings, 5 shillings, and 2 shillings and 6 pennies, sterling: and of silver, the CROWN, HALF CROWN, SHILLING, HALF SHILLING, TWO PENNIE PIECE, PENNIE, and HALF PENNIE, running in Scotland as well as England for those respective sterling values. The coins minted in Scotland only differed from those of England in these particulars, that in the shield of the royal arms, Scotland possessed the first and fourth quarters, France and England being placed quarterly in the second; and that the trappings of the king's horse upon the crowns and half crowns of silver, were adorned with the crowned thistle instead of the crowned rose, usually stamped upon the pieces of the same denominations that were coined in England. The thistle crown of gold and the three lesser pieces of silver, not being impressed with the royal arms, were no ways, unless by their mint marks, distinguishable from those minted here.

JAMES VI.  
1604.

SOME years after king James's accession to the throne of Great Britain, gold was considerably advanced in its value; insomuch that in 1619, the laureat broad piece above 14 Troy grains lighter than the former unit or scepter, was coined in England for twenty shillings in its stead. But this last piece was never introduced into Scotland, where the scepter'd unit, with its half, quarter, and half quarter, still continued to be coined as before: and as I apprehend for this reason, that although it was no longer so convenient for sale in England, it continued nevertheless to be equally so in Scotland; where the manner of accounting by their own marks still subsisting, a piece of gold of twenty marks Scotch, as this would now be, with its parts of ten marks, five marks, and two marks and a half, was no less convenient and apt for sale, than when the same after its first coinage had course for twenty shillings

1619.

JAMES VI. 1619. shillings sterling. These pieces of gold had, like those coined in England, for the legend of their reverses, FACIAM. EOS. IN. GENTEM. VNAM. upon the units; HENRICVS. ROSAS. REGNA. IACOBVS. upon the double crowns; and TVEATVR. VNITA. DEVS. upon the lesser pieces.

CHAR. I. 1625. KING Charles the first coined also in Scotland scepter'd UNITS of gold, with their HALVES, QUARTERS, and HALF QUARTERS, like those of the king his father; at first with the same legend, and afterwards of the like value, but with HIS. PRAESVM. VT. PROSIM. on the reverse of the whole pieces; and VNITA. TVEMVR. on that of the halves, quarters and half quarters. These last coins were very beautiful, and the dies for them were cut by the famous Nicholas Briot, a French artist, that has been mentioned before, and who first shewed in Britain the *specimen* of a piece with letters upon the edge; which was a curious medal of gold for the king's coronation at Edinburgh, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1633, upon the edge of which the following words were most elegantly impressed, EX. AVRO. VT. IN. SCOTIA. REPERTVR. BRIOT. FECIT. EDINBURGI. 1633. Two of these very valuable pieces are in the several cabinets of my worthy friends, Sir Hans Sloane baronet and Mr. Peter Sainthill.

OF silver, king Charles coined in Scotland the CROWN, HALF CROWN, SHILLING, and HALF SHILLING sterling, with the same legend as king James's, QVAE. DEVS. CONIVNXIT. NEMO. SEPARET. on their respective reverses. They were like the pieces of the same denominations coined in England, excepting the above mentioned difference in the royal shield; and that they were in general more fair and handsome, most of the dies having been prepared by the before mentioned engraver, whose fine performances have been so constantly esteemed, not in England and Scotland only, but in France also.

BESIDES

## MODERN SCOTISH COINS.

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BESIDES these sterling moneys there were also of king <sup>CHAR. I.</sup> Charles, silver coins of HALF a MARK Scottish, FORTY <sup>1625.</sup> PENNIES and TWENTY PENNIES Scottish, with the respective figures VI. 8, XL, and XX, behind the king's head; whose style was upon these pieces, CAR. D. G. SCO. ANG. FR. ET. HIB. REX. The reverse of the half mark was the royal shield crowned, with the legend CHRISTO. AVSPICE. REGNO; that of the forty pennie piece, a crowned thistle with SALVS. REIPVBLICAE. SVPREMA. LEX. and that of the twenty pennie piece, the same devise with IVSTITIA. THRONVM. FIRMAT. There appears also in Mr. Anderson's tables a piece of two shillings Scottish, with the number II. behind the head; and on the reverse the crowned shield of Scotland only, with the motto IVS. THRONVM. FIRMAT: and it is natural to think that there must have been also a Scottish single shilling to answer it.

FROM this time to the restauration of king Charles the <sup>CHAR. II.</sup> second, I have neither seen nor heard of any money coined <sup>1646. 1660.</sup> in Scotland: but after that time there were minted there by the mill and press, pieces of silver of FOUR MARKS, TWO MARKS, ONE MARK, and HALF a MARK Scottish. All these were stamped on one side with the king's bust laureat, almost half bodied in a sort of Roman dress, the medal of St. George dependent at his breast, and the words CAROLVS. II. DEI. GRA. round about; and on the reverse, with the four shields of Scotland, France and England quarterly, Scotland, and Ireland, surrounded with the words MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1664. In the quarters between the shields were double linked C's crowned, and the values of the several pieces LIII. 4, XXVI. 8, XIII. 4, or VI. 8, were respectively placed in their centers. If these coins, which bore date from 1664 to 1675, were nearly of the English standard and supposed the forementioned equality of 5 shillings sterling to 60 shillings Scottish, the standard weight of the four

P p

mark

CHAR. II. mark piece must have been very nearly that of 413 Troy  
 1665. grains: and I have accordingly found some in tolerable  
 preservation, that have not wanted above three grains of  
 that weight.

1675. THESE coins were followed by what were commonly  
 called the DOLLARS of Scotland, running for fifty six  
 shillings Scotch each, with their HALVES, QUARTERS,  
 EIGHTHS, and SIXTEENTHS; running for twenty-eight  
 shillings, fourteen shillings, seven shillings, and three  
 shillings and six pennies Scotch, respectively. They all  
 had the king's head laureat like the English milled money,  
 with CAROLVS. II. DEI. GRA. on the one side; and the  
 four first had on the reverse, the four crowned shields of  
 Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, with thistles in  
 the quarters and two linked C' in the center, legend  
 SCO. ANG. FR. ET. HIB. REX. 1675. The least piece  
 had on the reverse a St. Andrew's cross, with a thistle,  
 rose, *fleur de lis*, and harp in the quarters, and a crown  
 in the center: legend the same as before. These, like  
 the former moneys, were all coined by the mill and screw,  
 but without either letters or graining on the edge. They  
 were first minted in 1675, and continued to the king's  
 demise. I collect from a passage in an act of parliament,  
 in the year 1696, that standard silver was computed in  
 these coins at three pounds and four shillings the ounce  
 Scotch; from whence the standard weight of the dollar  
 should have been nearly 412 Troy grains and one third;  
 and to this weight I have found such of the pieces as I  
 have examined, and which have seemed well preserved,  
 sufficiently to converge. I should therefore apprehend  
 the weight of these pieces was intended to be the same as  
 that of the former, and that the difference of their value  
 only arose from the increase of the nominal price of silver  
 in Scotland.

## MODERN SCOTISH COINS.

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IN the second session of the first parliament of king JAMES VII. 1686. James the seventh in 1686, it was enacted, “ That in  
 “ all time coming, the species of current coin within  
 “ that kingdom should be FIVE SHILLINGS, TEN SHIL-  
 “ LINGS, TWENTY SHILLINGS, FORTY SHILLINGS, and  
 “ SIXTY SHILLINGS, Scotch pieces, to be coined of the  
 “ standard and weight therein aftermentioned.” That  
 is to say, they were all to be of the standard of eleven deniers and two grains; and the sixty shilling piece Scotch was to weigh, according to the standard pile of weights then in the mint, 21 deniers, 18 grains, 10 primes, and 18 seconds; or in the ordinary denomination of weights, 14 drops and 18 grains, making almost 427 Troy grains and a half, and the other pieces in proportion. By which regulation it is plain that the ounce Scotch of their standard silver was then coined into 3 *lib.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* and two thirds of a pennie Scotch: and that the English pennie was then rather more than equivalent to 13 pennies Scotch. And this was the proportion that subsisted between the coins of the two nations, till the entire completion of the union by queen Anne: all the silver that was coined, after this and before that time, following the appointment of the last quoted act of parliament. Yet does it not follow that all the several pieces therein and above mentioned, were ever really struck by king James: I have only seen the forty and the ten shilling pieces, and it does not appear that the advocates library at Edinburgh has any others. The forty shilling piece was edged with these words, NEMO. ME. IMPVNE. LACESSET. ANNO. REGNI. TERTIO. The king’s head was thereon represented laureat, as upon his English coins, with IACOBVS. II. DEI. GRATIA. and the value 40 underneath; and upon the reverse was the royal shield crowned, with Scotland in the first and fourth quarters, France and England quarterly

JAMES VII. 1687. terly, in the second, and Ireland in the third; legend  
MAG. BRIT. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1687. The ten shilling  
piece was grained on the edge, had the number 10 un-  
der the head; and on the reverse a St. Andrew's cross  
tipt with a thistle, rose, *fleur de lis*, and harp, the four  
crowned shields of Scotland, England, France, and Ire-  
land in the quarters; and the legend as before.

WILL. and MARY. 1689. KING William and queen Mary, who were proclaimed  
at Edinburgh on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1689, the same day  
they were crowned at Westminster, coined in Scotland all  
the five abovenamed pieces of silver; and so did king  
William alone after the queen's decease. The four larger  
pieces were, *mutatis mutandis*, the same as the forty shil-  
ling pieces of king James; excepting that the words on  
the edges of the 60 and the 40 shilling pieces were PRO-  
TEGIT. ET. ORNAT. ANNO. REGNI. TERTIO. The lesser  
pieces were only grained on the edge: the five shilling  
piece Scottish of William and Mary had a Roman V under  
their heads, and only a crowned cypher, with the latter  
part of their majesties style and the date on the reverse;  
and that of king William alone had 5 under his head,  
with his whole style round about; reverse the crowned  
thistle. NEMO. ME. IMPVNE. LACESSET. 1695.

WILL. II. 1701. NEITHER king Charles the second, nor king James the  
seventh, had coined any gold in Scotland; but in the year  
1701, there were struck at Edinburgh by king William,  
PISTOLES and half PISTOLES, having his head laureat, on  
the one side, and the royal shield crowned, with Scotland  
in the first and fourth quarters, between the letters W and  
R also crowned on the reverse. The style was the same  
as usual, but it may be noted that there never was  
upon the coins of king William struck in Scotland,  
any number put after his name; those who had the  
direction of that affair being sensible, that altho' he

was the second king of Scotland of his name, and the third of England, he was really the first of that name that was king of Great Britain. Under the head upon these pieces was the figure of the rising sun, and they are all said to have been coined of the gold sent over by the Scottish African company, from the colony of Darien in the West-Indies; and to have been thus marked in memory of the Rising-Sun, a great ship fitted out by those merchants upon that occasion, and in which this gold was brought home. All that I have seen of these pistoles, and that were in fine preservation, have constantly weighed full 106 Troy grains: from whence I judge that they were intended to run for 12 l. Scottish, and their halves for 6 l. respectively of the same money.

WILL. II.  
1701.

OF queen Anne's silver money coined before the Union, I have only seen PIECES OF TEN SHILLINGS, and PIECES OF FIVE SHILLINGS Scottish, which were every way, excepting the head and style, the same as those of king William. But the perfect union of the two kingdoms being completed in her time and taking place upon the first day of May 1707, it was then among other things settled, "that from and after that time, the coin should be  
" of the same standard and value throughout the united  
" kingdom, as it then was in England; and that a mint  
" should be continued in Scotland, under the same rules  
" as the mint in England: and also that from and after  
" the Union, the same weights and measures should be  
" used throughout the united kingdom, as were then  
" established in England." In consequence of which regulations, all the old silver money was presently called into the mint, to be recoin'd into sterling money the same as the English; and the several sterling CROWNS, HALF CROWNS, SHILLINGS, and HALF SHILLINGS that were then minted, and that bear date in 1707 and 1708,

ANNE  
1702.

1707.

## A T A B L E O F

are no ways distinguishable from those coined in England, excepting by the letter E. for Edinburgh, stamped upon them all under her majesty's head.

THERE was upon this occasion brought into the mint at Edinburgh to be recoined in the year 1707, of silver moneys then current in Scotland, over and above what is usually hoarded up and laid by in like cases, what was by the silver-smiths converted into plate and bullion, and some thousand pounds that came in afterwards, the value of 411,117 *l.* 10 *s.* 9 *d.* sterling\*; as I learn from the excellent and judicious preface prefixed by Mr. Thomas Ruddiman to Mr. James Anderson's *Thesaurus Diplomatum et Numismatum Scotiae*, a work to which I have been much indebted in these remarks. But all this last mentioned sum was not coined at that time, as the same learned person further informs us: for the invasion, which happened near the end of the year 1707, made it necessary to issue again for common use a great number of the 40 shilling pieces Scottish, and of the other coins of that sort, that had been brought into the mint just before. Besides which 40,000 pounds sterling of English milled money, and that were included in the account, had no occasion to be recoined: and this is the reason why the sum formerly mentioned to have been minted at Edingburgh, by the English moneyers sent from the Tower to instruct

\* The following are the particulars of Mr. Ruddiman in the 84<sup>th</sup> page of of this sum, as the same are given by the before mentioned preface.

*In trapeziam Scoticam anno 1707 investum est,*      *lib. ster. sol. den.*

<i>Monetæ argeptæ peregrinæ, ad</i>	—	—	132,080	17	00
<i>Scoticæ per molam percussæ, ad</i>	—	—	96,856	13	09
<i>Scoticæ malleo percussæ, ad</i>	—	—	142,180	00	00
<i>Anglicæ per molam percussæ, ad</i>	—	—	40,000	00	00
			<hr/>		
		<i>Summa</i>	411,117	10	09

those

ANNE.  
1707.

those in Scotland in the usages of the English mint, was so much less than the sum last said to have been brought into the mint of Scotland. Presently after the apprehensions of the invasion were over and before the end of the year 1708, these forty shilling pieces were again called a second time into the mint, and then recoined; when Mr. Ruddiman acquaints us that there came in about the value of 4000*l.* sterling more than had before been issued out. Of this last coinage I have seen no particular account, but we may reasonably collect from the foregoing observation, and from the quantity by which the former coinage fell short of what was first brought into the mint, that there was now coined about 55,000*l.* sterling; which added to the quantity first coined will make for the whole sum minted upon this occasion, about 375,000*l.* in silver sterling money. The moneys of this second coinage are distinguished from those of the first, as I have been told, by a small asterisk annexed to the letter E \*, that is stamped under the queen's head upon all the several pieces.

THERE has not been any other silver money coined in Scotland since this time; where they however retain in many cases the old manner of accounting by their own marks and other Scottish pieces: but these being now merely nominal and no such really existing, all their sums of every denomination are esteemed equivalent to the twelfth parts of the same sums English, as they indeed were, when the two kingdoms were united by king James the first of Great Britain.

ADDEN-

## A D D E N D A.

I HAVE taken notice in the 6<sup>th</sup> page of the foregoing papers, that I have never yet met with a pennie of king Richard the first: I might have added that the piece exhibited as such in *Speed's Chronicle*, is only a pennie twice struck in the coinage, of the first sort of those here ascribed to king Henry the third, and whose legend round the head was only HENRICVS. REX. notwithstanding the first syllable of the name has by the double stroke been obliterated, and part of the head been twice represented. The following lines shew how the two inscriptions would have stood, could they have both remained entire; where the capitals express the letters of each that remain, the point shews the place where the hand, and the asterisk, that where the cross upon the scepter, do both break into the lettered limb: and it may be observed that the S and the R, which are both double, point in the same manner at the several parts of the two heads, to which they respectively belong.

h e n r i c u S R • E X \*  
R I C V S R • e x \* h e n

The reverse agrees also perfectly with a pennie of the same reign and of the same sort, tho' it may not be so easy to assign with certainty the name of the city and moneyer, from the imperfect remains of the letters that appear in the print. Mr. Thoresby through the not sufficiently attending to this piece, was led into the mistake of looking upon the two heads as a characteristic of the coins of king Richard the first: and he has therefore placed to this king in his own cabinet, a pennie of king Edward

Edward the first as it seems, that had lost the name, and that had met with the same accident of a double stroke in the coinage.

I HAVE taken notice in the 12<sup>th</sup> page, that all the groats of king Edward the third must by their weight have been coined after the 27<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, notwithstanding that he is upon some of them only styled king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitain: but I had then overlooked the true reason of that particular, which has since been given in a very instructive book just published, and intituled *An historical account of English money*, by Stephen Martin-Leake esq. *Clarenceux king of arms*. Where that curious gentleman has rightly observed that king Edward, who had first assumed the title of king of France in his 14<sup>th</sup> year 1340, did afterwards again lay it aside, upon the cessions made him by the treaty of Breigny in his 34<sup>th</sup> year 1360; in consideration of which he then renounced all right and title to that crown, and never afterwards laid any claim to the same, until Charles the fifth of France, having broken the peace, declared the former treaty void; upon which he again in his 43<sup>d</sup> year 1369, by the advice of his parliament resumed that title, which all his successors have since continued to this day. This also accounts for those of his coins of gold upon which the title of king of France is omitted; but concerning which it may be further observed, that notwithstanding he had laid aside the style, he continued to make use of the arms of that kingdom, which he still quartered, as the inheritance of the queen his mother, in the first and fourth quarters of the royal shield.

I HAVE said in the 44<sup>th</sup> page, that I had never seen any piece of the last or best money of king Edward the sixth, that was less than his quarter shilling: and that as lesser pieces of a baser kind were still coined at Canter-

bury and York, it was probable there were none of those pieces actually minted of the finer silver. But I have since seen a pennie of that sort; having on one side the king in his robes at full length, with his crown, scepter, and orb, E. D. G. ROSA. SINE. SPI. and upon the reverse the royal arms on a cross *fleurie*, as they are represented upon his larger moneys, with CIVITAS. LONDON. and the mint mark of a ton, by which it appears to have been coined at Throckmorton's mint in the Tower of London. This uncommon pennie is in fine preservation, does not want a quarter of a grain of the full standard weight of eight grains, and belongs to my worthy friend Thomas-Lee Dummer esquire: who at the same time communicated another very remarkable piece of king Henry the eighth, struck in Ireland, and seemingly of good silver. This had on the one side his head almost full faced, HENRIC'. 8. D. G. AGL.' FRA. Z. HIB. REX. and upon the other the royal arms on a cross *fleurie*, CIVITAS. DVBLINIE. and the mint mark of a harp: it was no broader than one of his English groats, but so very thick as to weigh 606 grains; from whence I should apprehend it to have been only a trial piece, no ways adjusted to the weight of any regular coin.

I HAVE suspected in the 80<sup>th</sup> page, that the small rose upon some of the coins of king Charles the first struck by Briot, might possibly be the very mint mark used in the Tower in 1632, and that this money was therefore pixed with the other coins of the same year. But two pieces I have since seen of his Scottish money marked with a like small rose, have rather persuaded me that the same was the proper mark of Briot, stamped upon the several pieces minted by him, in consequence of the warrant given him by his majesty, to coin moneys both of gold and silver agreeable to the indentures of the mint then subsisting.

I HAVE

I HAVE mentioned in a note at the bottom of the 82<sup>d</sup> page, a small piece of silver of the same king, with SALVS. POPVLI. SVPREMA. LEX. and since that passage was printed off, I have seen in the collection of Mr. Charles Smyth of the Tower, another piece nearly of the same sort, but appearing to have been of Briot's milled money: this has also, like the former, a rose behind the king's head, and under it  $\text{II}$ , together with the same date 1634 on the reverse.

AND having thus insensibly drawn out these remarks to a greater length than what I at first intended, I shall only add the following account of the actual weights of some of the coins abovementioned in Troy grains, as I have found the same with the ballance: by which it may be seen how nearly those pieces agree, when they are undiminished, with the several indentures of the mint by which they were respectively coined.

*Silver coins well preserved, or but little impaired.*

- A pennie, with two scepters, + PILLEM. REX. AN- *Troy Gr.*  
 GLOR. *Rev.* + COLSPEGEN. ON. LVND. - - - 22.  
 Another, with a rose on each side of the head,  
 + PILLEM. REX. *Rev.* + PVLSTAN. ON. ROFF. - 22. *g.*  
 A pennie of Henry I. with an annulet on each side  
 of the head, + HNRI. REX. N. *Rev.* + ALGAR.  
 ON. LVNDN. - - - - 22.  
 A pennie of Stephen, full faced, + STIFNE. *Rev.*  
 + HERMER. ON. NOR. - - - - 22. *b.*  
 A pennie of Henry II. as I take it, side faced,  
 + HENRICVS. *Rev.* + GODRIC. ON. SVTT. - 21. 3*q.*  
 A pennie of John, coined at Dublin, - - 21. 3*q.*

A pen-

A pennie of Henry III. of the sort commonly ascribed to Henry II. HENRICVS. REX. <i>Rev.</i>	Troy Gr.
+ SAMVEL. ON. CAN. - - -	22. <i>b.</i>
Another of the same, <i>Rev.</i> + ADAM. ON. WINC.	22. <i>b.</i>
Another, with REX. III. <i>Rev.</i> GILBERT. ON. CANT.	22. <i>b.</i>
Another, - - - WILLEM. ON. WINC.	22. <i>b.</i>
Another, - - - NICOLE. ON. LVND.	22. <i>b.</i>
A pennie of the same, REX. TERCI. <i>Rev.</i> NICOLE.	
ON. LVND. - - -	22. <i>q.</i>
A pennie of Edward I. <i>old ster. Rev.</i> ROBERTVS.	
DE. HADL'. - - -	22. <i>b.</i>
Another, - - <i>Rev.</i> VILLA. BRISTOLIE. - -	22. <i>b.</i>
Another, - - <i>Rev.</i> CIVITAS. LONDON. - -	22.
A pennie, with EDWA. <i>Rev.</i> CIVITAS. CANTOR. -	22.
A groat of Edward III. - - -	71. <i>b.</i>
A groat of Richard II. - - -	69. 39.
A half groat of the same, - - -	36.
A pennie of the same, - - -	17. <i>b.</i>
A groat of Henry V. - - -	59. <i>b.</i>
A groat of Henry VI. - - -	60.
A heavy groat of Edward IV. - - -	60.
A common groat of the same, - - -	47.
A groat, probably of the 49 <sup>th</sup> of Henry VI. mark a <i>fleur de lis.</i> - - -	47.
A groat of Richard III. - - -	48.
A full faced groat of Henry VII. - - -	48.
A shilling of the same, - - -	141.
A fide faced groat of Henry VIII. of his 18 <sup>th</sup> year,	42. <i>b.</i>
A shilling of his 34 <sup>th</sup> year, 10 oz. <i>fine,</i> - - -	116.
Another of his 30 <sup>th</sup> year, 6 oz. <i>fine,</i> - - -	121.
Another of 37 <sup>th</sup> year, 4 oz. <i>fine,</i> - - -	114.
A groat of Edward VI. of his first year, - - -	37.
A shilling of the same, dated 1549, 6 oz. <i>fine,</i> -	81.
Another,	

# A D D E N D A.

161

Another dated 1551. of the baser sort, being only	Troy Gr.
3 oz. <i>fine</i> , - - - - -	77. b.
A crown piece of his 6 <sup>th</sup> year. 11 oz. 1 dwt. <i>fine</i> -	479. b.
A groat of queen Mary. 11 oz. <i>fine</i> . - - -	32.
A shilling of queen Elizabeth, marked with an escallop-shell. <i>Old sterling</i> . - - -	96.
A crown piece of her 43 <sup>d</sup> year. - - -	463.
An <i>exurgat</i> twenty-shilling piece of Charles I. in 1643. Weight, 3 oz. 17 dwt. 7 gr. or -	1855.
A mark piece Scotch of James VI. 11 oz. <i>fine</i> , made current here for 13 d. <i>half-pennie</i> , by proclamation. - - - - -	104.
A half mark piece Scotch of Charles I. 1674. -	51. b.
A four mark piece Scotch of Charles II. 1682. -	410.
A dollar, or six and fifty-shilling piece Scotch of the same. <i>These three last pieces of uncer-</i> <i>tain standard</i> . - - - - -	411.
A forty shilling piece Scotch, of James VII. 11 deniers and 2 grains <i>fine</i> . - - -	284. b.
A sixty shilling piece Scotch of William and Mary. - - - - -	428.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

<i>Page</i>	<i>line</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>read</i>
22.	15.	in articles	in the articles
23.	1.	<i>dele</i> other	
37.	8.	value present	value of the present
42.	36.	mystery	miftery
59. col. 2.	26.	a heavy	as heavy
100. col. 1.	12.	<i>dele</i> of	
149 marg.		1446.	1664.

A  
T A B L E  
O F  
E N G L I S H  
G O L D C O I N S

F R O M

The Eighteenth Year of King Edward the Third,  
when Gold was first coined in England,  
to the present Time.

W I T H

Their Weights and intrinsic Values.

By *Martin Folkes*, Esq;

L O N D O N,

Reprinted in the YEAR, MDCCXLV.

# T A B L E

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A  
**T A B L E**  
 O F  
**E N G L I S H**  
**G O L D C O I N S.**

**F**LORENS, at six shillings each; with HALVES and <sup>18</sup> Ed. III. <sup>1344.</sup>  
 QUARTERS in proportion. The weight of the whole  
 floren being 108 *Troy grains*, and the value 19 *shil-*  
*lings, of our present money.*

They were recalled presently, but if any of them shall hereafter be found, they will readily be known, by the type of two leopards upon the whole floren, one leopard upon the half, and a helmet upon the quarter.

NOBLES, at six shillings and eight pennies each; <sup>SAME</sup>  
 with HALVES and QUARTERS. Weight 136.7 *grains*; <sup>YEAR.</sup>  
 value 24 *s. and a pennie.*

NOBLES, *etc.* as before. Weight 128.6 *grains*. Value <sup>20</sup> SAME.  
 22 *s. 7 d. half-pennie.*

NOBLES, *etc.* as before. Weight 120 *grains*. Value <sup>21</sup> SAME.  
 27 *s. 1 d. half-pennie.*

There is some variety in the legends of these last pieces, which are the only gold coins of this king, now commonly found.

NOBLES

- 1 RIC. II. NOBLES, HALVES, and QUARTERS, of the same weight  
1377. and value as the last.
- 1 HEN. IV. THE SAME.  
1399.
- 13 SAME. THE SAME, but lighter; the noble weighing only 108  
*grains*. Value 19*s*.
- 1 HEN. V. THE SAME.  
1412.
- 1 HEN. VI. THE SAME.  
1422.
- 1 EDW. IV. THE SAME. But in his 4<sup>th</sup> year the noble was raised  
1461. to eight shillings and two pennies.
- 5 SAME. NEW NOBLES OR RIALS at ten shillings each, with  
HALVES and QUARTERS. Weight 120 *gr*. Value 21*s*.  
1 *d. half-pennie*: as also,  
ANGELS, at six shillings and eight pennies each, with  
HALVES called ANGELETS. Weight 80 *grains*. Value 14*s*.  
and a *pennie*.
- 49 HEN. VI. There was an indenture for coining the like ANGELS and  
1470. ANGELETS, and it is very probable that there were some  
such coined, tho' I have not as yet seen any of them. I  
should suppose however that they would easily be known,  
by their near resemblance to king Edward's angels; and  
possibly by the omission of the rose upon the reverse.  
King Edward coined after his restoration the same  
pieces as before: there was also a master and worker of  
the mint appointed in the name of king Edward the fifth,  
but it is not probable that he coined any new moneys.
- 1 RIC. III. RIALS, HALVES, and QUARTERS; ANGELS and AN-  
1483. GELETS, the same as those of the 5<sup>th</sup> of king Edward the  
fourth; but I have only seen the two last.
- 1 HEN. VII. THE SAME PIECES; and some years after,  
1485. SOVEREIGNS OF DOUBLE RIALS at twenty shillings  
each. Weight 240 *gr*. Value 42*s*. and three *pennies*.

I have

# ENGLISH GOLD COINS.

5

I have also seen of this king, a QUADRUPLE RIAL OF 1 H. VII. DOUBLE SOVEREIGN, weighing an ounce. 1485.

SOVEREIGNS, RIALS, HALVES and QUARTERS, AN-1 H. VIII. GELS and ANGELETS; as before. 1509.

The sovereign was advanced to 22 s. 6 d. the rial to 18 SAME. 11 s. 3 d. and the angel to 7 s. 6 d. Half rials and quarter rials were omitted: and there were added,

GEORGE-NOBLES at six shillings and eight pennies each, with halves called FORTY-PENNIE-PIECES. Weight 71.1 grains. Value 12 s. and 6 pennies.

Hitherto, all these coins had been of the old standard of England for gold moneys, which was 22 carats 3 grains and a half fine gold, to half a grain of allay: but other standards being now introduced, they are from this time expressed in the table: and there were coined

CROWNS OF THE DOUBLE ROSE at 5 shillings each, with HALF CROWNS answerable; of new standard gold, or of gold 22 carats fine. Weight 57.3 grains. Value 9 s. 3 d. half-pennie.

SOVEREIGNS at 20 shillings each, with HALF SOVE-34 SAME. REIGNS; of gold 23 carats fine. Weight 200 grains. Value 33 s. 11 d. farthing: as also,

ANGELS at eight shillings each, ANGELETS and QUARTER ANGELS. Weight 80 grains. Value 13 s. 6 d. three fourths.

These angels are distinguished by an annulet, commonly called a gun-hole, on the side of the ship.

SOVEREIGNS at twenty shillings each, HALVES, CROWNS, 36 SAME. and HALF CROWNS; of new standard or crown gold, 22 carats fine. Weight 192 grains. Value 31 s. 1 d. three fourths.

THE SAME PIECES, and of the same weights, but baser; 37 SAME. being of gold only 20 carats fine. Value 28 s. 3 d. three fourths.

1 EDW. VI. THE SAME PIECES, and of the same weight and allay  
1546. as those of the 37<sup>th</sup> of king Henry the eighth.

3 SAME. SOVEREIGNS of crown gold, at twenty shillings each.  
Weight 169.4 *grains*. Value 27*s.* 6*d.* I have also seen a  
treble piece of this sort; and there were coined besides,

HALF SOVEREIGNS, CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS, an-  
swerable to the Sovereigns. Of these there are two sorts,  
the one with the king's profile head crowned, and the other  
bare. There are also varieties in the legends of the pieces  
of the same kind.

4 SAME. SOVEREIGNS at twenty-four shillings each, with HALF  
SOVEREIGNS; of old standard gold: but I have only seen  
the whole sovereign. Weight 240 *grains*. Value 42*s.* and  
three pennies. And at the same time were minted,

ANGELS at eight shillings each, and ANGELETS. Weight  
80 *grains*. Value 14*s.* and a penny.

There were also struck some DOUBLE SOVEREIGNS-  
weighing an ounce; and I have seen a SIX-ANGEL piece,  
but I am not sure that it was intended for a coin.

5 SAME. The sovereigns of the last sort were advanced to thirty  
shillings each, the angels to ten shillings; and there were  
coined besides,

SOVEREIGNS of crown gold, at twenty shillings each,  
with HALF SOVEREIGNS, CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS  
answerable: all these last pieces representing the king half  
bodied and in armour. Weight 174.5 *grains*. Value 28*s.*  
3*d.* three fourths.

1 MARY. SOVEREIGNS at thirty shillings each, of old standard  
1553. gold, with RIALS at fifteen shillings, ANGELS at ten shil-  
lings, and HALF ANGELS at five; their weight and value  
the same as those of the 4<sup>th</sup> of king Edward the sixth.

I have have seen no gold pieces coined after the queen's  
marriage, except angels and half angels only.

## ENGLISH GOLD COINS.

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· SOVEREIGNS *etc.* of old standard gold, the same as <sup>1</sup> ELIZ. queen Mary's; to which were added QUARTER ANGELS: <sup>1558.</sup> as also

SOVEREIGNS of crown gold at twenty shillings each, with HALF SOVEREIGNS, CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS; the same as those of the 6<sup>th</sup> year of king Edward.

There were some of these last pieces coined by the mill, and very neatly; but I do not remember to have seen the whole sovereign so coined.

ANGELS of old standard gold at ten shillings each; <sup>43</sup> SAME. HALF ANGELS and QUARTER ANGELS. Weight 79.3 *gr.* Value 13 *s.* and 11 *pennies.* And of crown gold,

SOVEREIGNS at twenty shillings each, with HALVES, CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS. Weight 171.9 *gr.* Value 27 *s.* 10 *d.* half *pennie.*

These last coins of queen Elizabeth are readily distinguished from her others, by the several mint marks .1. or .2. upon them.

THE SAME PIECES of crown gold as the last. They <sup>1</sup> JAMES I. have all ANG. SCO. upon them: whereas all his following <sup>1603.</sup> coins have MAG. BR.

· SOVEREIGNS or UNITS of crown gold, commonly called <sup>2</sup> SAME. scepter pieces, at 20 *s.* each; with DOUBLE CROWNS, BRITISH CROWNS, and HALF CROWNS. Weight 154.8 *grains.* Value 25 *s.* 1 *d.* farthing. As also,

THISTLE-CROWNS, at four shillings each. Weight 31 *gr.* Value 5 *s.* and a farthing.

ROSE RIALS of old standard gold, at thirty shillings each, <sup>3</sup> SAME. and SPUR-RIALS at fifteen shillings. Weight 213.3 *grains.* Value 37 *s.* 6 *d.* half-pennie: Together with,

ANGELS at ten shillings each, and HALF ANGELS. Weight 71.1 *grains.* Value 12 *s.* and 6 *pennies.*

All gold coins were advanced by proclamation, after the <sup>9</sup> SAME. rate of two shillings upon every twenty.

THIRTY

17 JAM. I. THIRTY SHILLING PIECES and FIFTEEN SHILLING  
 1620. PIECES, of old standard gold. Weight 194.2 gr. Value  
 34s. 2d. *half-pennie*. As also

TEN SHILLING PIECES OF NEW ANGELS. Weight 64.7.  
 Value 11s. 4d. *three fourths*. And of crown gold,

UNITS OF TWENTY SHILLING PIECES commonly called  
 broad pieces, DOUBLE-CROWNS OF TEN SHILLING PIECES,  
 and BRITISH-CROWNS OF FIVE SHILLING PIECES. Weight  
 140.5 grains. Value 22s. 9d. *half-pennie*. All these have  
 the king's head laureat.

1 CHAR. I. THE SAME PIECES of crown gold as the last. There  
 1625. were of these several types, some representing the king with  
 a ruff, and having a plain escutcheon on the reverse; and  
 others exhibiting his person in a band, and his arms in an  
 oval shield upon the other side. He also coined of old  
 standard gold,

ANGELS, the same as those of the 17<sup>th</sup> year of king  
 James: they were his only coins of that standard, and in-  
 deed the last struck in England: all those that follow be-  
 ing of the new standard, or of crown gold 22 carats fine.

KING Charles in his troubles coined THREE-POUND-  
 PIECES, TWENTY-SHILLING PIECES, and TEN-SHILLING-  
 PIECES, at Oxford: all with the legend EXVRGAT. DEVS.  
*etc.* They were besides stamped with the Welsh-Feathers,  
 the mark of the mint at Aberistwith; whose officers at-  
 tended the king, after the parliament had taken possession  
 of the mint in the Tower of London, about the end of the  
 year 1642. The weight of these three-pound pieces, was  
 the same as that of three of his common broad pieces, or  
 of 421.4 grains, and the others were made in proportion  
 thereunto.

1 CHA. II. I have seen among what are commonly called the siege  
 1648. piéces, a TWENTY-SHILLING-PIECE of gold, struck at  
 Pontefract, and there may be others of the same sort. It

was

# ENGLISH GOLD COINS.

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was eight corner'd, and coined just after the king's death; 1 CHAR I.  
1648.  
while the castle still held out for king Charles the second.

TWENTY, TEN, and FIVE-SHILLING-PIECES, of the C. Wealth.  
1649.  
same weight as those of king Charles; but with the arms and style of the Common-wealth.

TWENTY SHILLING-PIECES, of the same weight, with Oliver Pr.  
1656.  
the head and style of the Protector. They were milled, finely graved, and edged. FIFTY-SHILLING PIECES of the same, weighing 35 1.2 *grains*, with letters on the edge; and I have seen the puncheon that was cut for a TEN SHILLING PIECE. I apprehend notwithstanding, that these pieces were never regularly published as lawful moneys of England, since I find that the coins of the Common Wealth were continued to the very time of the king's restoration. When,

TWENTY, TEN, and FIVE-SHILLING BROAD PIECES 12 CH. II.  
1660.  
were coined, the same as those of king Charles the first. The head was laureat, and some of the pieces had XX, X, or V upon them, and others were without. There were also in the year 1662, UNITS OF TWENTY SHILLING PIECES of the same weight, coined by the mill and press.

TWENTY SHILLING PIECES, commonly called GUI- 15 SAME.  
NEAS, milled and edged; as also TEN SHILLING PIECES, FORTY SHILLING PIECES, and FIVE POUND PIECES: forty four guineas and a half being coined out of the pound Troy, and the other pieces in proportion. Whence the true weight of the guinea will be found that of 129.438 *Troy grains*.

FIVE POUND PIECES, FORTY SHILLING PIECES, GUI- 1 JAM. II.  
1684.  
NEAS, and HALF GUINEAS, as before; the five pound piece weighing 647.19 *Troy grains*.

THE SAME: and with the king's head and style only, W. & M.  
1688.  
after the queen's death.

THE SAME PIECES, as in the two foregoing reigns. 1 ANNE  
1701.

C

THE

- GEOR. I. THE SAME; but in December 1717, guineas, which  
 1714. had for several years passed at 21 s. 6 d. although coined  
 for twenty-shilling pieces only, were made current by pro-  
 clamations at one and twenty shillings: and the year  
 following were coined besides the other moneys, some  
 QUARTER GUINEAS, weighing each, 32.36 grains.
- GEOR. II. GUINEAS, at one and twenty shillings each, HALF GUI-  
 1727. NEAS, DOUBLE GUINEAS, and FIVE GUINEA PIECES; but  
 no quarter guineas have as yet been coined, since the ac-  
 cession of his present majesty.

*Addenda.*

SINCE the publishing of this table in 1736, the wor-  
 thy and curious Brian Fairfax esq. has found and pro-  
 cured the quarter-floren of king Edward the third, char-  
 ged with a helmet agreeably to what is said of it in the  
 first paragraph: and my respected friend, Taylor White esq.  
 not long after met with the noble of the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the  
 same king, exactly resembling the common nobles of his  
 27<sup>th</sup> year, but weighing within half a grain of the full  
 weight here assigned it.

My good friend also Mr. Peter Sainthill, much about the  
 same time, first met with a Henry's angel, every way suit-  
 ing the description I had ventured to give in the 4<sup>th</sup> page  
 of those coined in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of king Henry the sixth;  
 and having a *fleur de lis* in the place of the rose, which  
 I apprehended would be wanting upon these coins:  
 since which two or three more like angels are come to  
 light, and Dr. Mead has found an angelet every way an-  
 swering to the same.

MR. Sainthill has besides met with a gold coin of king  
 Edward the sixth, that I had never before either seen or  
 heard of: it exactly resembles the half crown of the double  
 rose

# ENGLISH GOLD COINS.

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rose of king Henry the eighth, and weighs about 28 *Troy grains*. There was in all probability a crown likewise of the same sort, and I should assign them both to the 3<sup>d</sup> year of this king: when he appears to have coined crown gold, and when the weight of a noble made proportionable to his twenty-shilling sovereign of that gold, would have been that of 56.5 *grains*, less than a grain short of the crown of the double rose of king Henry the eighth; and which must it self at this time have been current for the advanced price of six shillings and eight pennies.

I SHALL only add in this place the actual weights by the ballance, of some of the gold coins above mentioned; among which I have taken the fairest and the heaviest pieces, whenever I had it in my power to make any choice.

*Gold coins well preserved, or but little diminished.*

	<i>Troy Gr.</i>
A quarter floren of king Edward III. <i>Old stand.</i> -	26. q.
A noble of the same, of his 20 <sup>th</sup> year, - -	128.
A common noble of the same, - -	120.
A noble of king Richard II. - - -	120.
A noble of king Henry IV. - - -	119. b.
A noble of king Henry V. - - -	108.
A noble of king Henry VI. - - -	107. b.
A rial of king Edward IV. - - -	119. b.
An angel of the same, - - -	79. b.
An angel, supposed of the 49 <sup>th</sup> of Henry VI. -	79. q.
An angel of king Richard III. - - -	79.
A sovereign, or double rial of king Henry VII. -	239. q.
An angel of the same, - - -	79. b.
A sovereign, as I think, of king Henry VIII. -	239. b.
An angel of the same, - - -	79. 3q.
A George noble of the same, - - -	70.
	A crown

A TABLE OF, *etc.*

	Troy Gr.
A crown of the double rose. 22 carats fine, -	57. q.
A sovereign of his 34 <sup>th</sup> year. 23 carats fine, -	199 b.
A gun-hole angel, - - -	79.
A sovereign of his 36 <sup>th</sup> year. Crown gold, -	190. b.
A sovereign of his 37 <sup>th</sup> year. 20 carats fine, -	190.
A half sovereign of the 1 <sup>st</sup> of king Edward VI. -	95. b.
A sovereign of his 3 <sup>d</sup> year. Crown gold, -	169.
A sovereign of his 4 <sup>th</sup> year. Old stand. - -	233.
An angel of the same, - - -	77.
A sovereign of his 6 <sup>th</sup> year. Crown gold, -	174. q.
A sovereign of queen Mary. Old stand. -	239.
An angel of Philip and Mary, - - -	80.
A sovereign of queen Elizabeth, - - -	239.
An angel of the same, - - -	80.
A sovereign of the same. Crown gold. - -	173. b.
A sovereign of her 43 <sup>d</sup> year, - - -	171.
A like sovereign of king James I. - - -	171. 3q.
An unit of his 2 <sup>d</sup> year, called a scepter piece, -	155.
A rose rial of the same. Old stand. - -	213.
An angel of the same, - - -	71.
A thirty shilling piece of his 17 <sup>th</sup> year, - -	193. 3q.
A laureat twenty-piece. Crown gold, - -	140.
An <i>exurgat</i> three-pound piece of king Charles I. -	421. b.
A twenty shilling piece of the Commonwealth, -	140. b.
A fifty shilling piece of Oliver Cromwell, - -	351.
A milled unit of king Charles II. 1662. -	141.
A guinea of the same, 1663. - - -	129. b.
A five pound piece of the same, - - -	647.

F I N I S.



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