

whole coinage to herself. For one gold coin with the bust of George or William, at least ten or twelve bear that of Queen Victoria ; and inspecting a handful of silver just now, there was only a single piece with a ghost-like shadow of George III., and a second with the nearly impalpable head of William IV., while all the others, over twenty, rejoiced in the effigy of Victoria. As for the copper circulation, its tendency from the early years of our gracious lady has been to lightness, and the latest change has culminated in what is facetiously called a "bronze coinage." It is wonderfully light, and so far eminently convenient, but one's digital feelings have grown sadly at fault. Till recently, a penny was a penny, and a peripatetic philosopher was not likely to disburse twopence in almsgiving where he only reckoned upon one ; now, on the contrary, pence, confounded with halfpence, are seldom definitely known, while a bright farthing has more than once passed muster for a half-sovereign.

There still seems an obvious want of some more manageable coin. Could gold be rendered available, and miniature angels do duty as small coin ? Our silver piece of three-pence and fourpence are so much alike that there is no distinguishing them without trying the edge. Gold will bear to be beaten extremely thin, and might be unmistakably marked with the real value. It would be easy to have 5s. and 2s. 6d. tokens of value in the same metal, the superior hardness of which would be another advantage.

It is remarkable that England possesses an unbroken series of pennies from Egbert to Victoria, if we except the reigns of Richard I. and John, whose coins were French and Irish. The earliest pennies weigh $22\frac{1}{2}$ grains Troy. Edward III.'s weigh 18 grains ; they then fell to 15, and in the reign of Edward IV. were but 12. Edward VI. reduced his pennies to 8 grains, and Elizabeth to little more than 7. We also meet with halfpennies and farthings of silver. Such coins were struck by Edward I., and were in use up to