

guineas be seized by other Jews or Gentiles, and go directly to the crucible? A Birmingham shilling may do as well for common change, as a shilling from the mint, if such a thing existed or ever came into sight, because, in petty dealings, where the shilling changes hands every minute, a small shifting loss is not regarded—*nulla est de minimis cura*; or, because we are willing to pay a light tax for a constant convenience; but not so when great payments are in question. For then we know the difference, and that it constitutes an object worth attending to. Would any debtor make a payment of £ 1050 in guineas, if, by melting the same guineas, he could pay the debt, and put a hundred pounds worth of the circulating paper into his pocket? The case is just the same in purchase as in payment. If, to buy a certain quantity of corn or cloth, he parts with a thousand new guineas instead of £ 1050 in Bank-notes, I say he is cheated or he cheats himself; because the guineas are worth fifteen or twenty per cent. more; which difference he might realize by melting or exporting them; and, if he were resolved to forego that profit himself, somebody else