

An interesting account of this Indian money is given by Roger Williams, in his *Key into the Language of America* (London, 1643),—reprinted, with careful and extensive annotations (mainly philological) by J. H. Trumbull, in *Publications of the Narragansett Club*, vol. i. (Providence, R. I., 1866): In chap. xxvi. of this work, pp. 173–178, "Concerning their Coyne," the author says: "The *Indians* are ignorant of Europe's Coyne; yet they have given a name to ours, and call it *Monéash* from the *English Money*. Their own is of two sorts; one white, which they make of the stem or stocke of the *Periwinkle*, which they call *Meteaúhock*, when all the shell is broken off: and of this sort six of their small beads (which they make with holes to string the bracelets) are currant with the *English* for a peny. The second is black, inclining to blew, which is made of the shell of a fish which some *English* call *Hens*, *Poquaúhock*, and of this sort three make an *English* peny. . . . This one fathom of this their stringed money, now worth of the *English* but five shillings (sometimes more), some few yeeres since was worth nine, and sometimes ten shillings per Fathome: the fall is occasioned by the fall of *Beaver* in *England*: the *Natives* are very impatient, when for *English* commodities they pay so much more of their money, and not understanding the cause of it; and many say the *English* cheat and deceive them, though I have laboured to make them understand the reason of it. . . . Their white they call *Wompam* (which signifies white): their black *Suckduhock* (*Súcki* signifying blacke). Both amongst themselves, as also the *English* and *Dutch*, the blacke peny is two pence white: the blacke fathom double, or two fathom of white. Before ever they had *Awle blades* from *Europe*, they made shift to bore this their shell money with stone, and so fell their trees with stone set in a wooden staff, and used wooden *howes*: which some old & poore women (fearfull to leave the old tradition) use to this day. They hang these strings of money about their necks and wrists, as also upon the necks and wrists of their wives and children." Trumbull (pp. 140, 175, *ut supra*) says that the *Poquaúhock* was the *Venus mercenaria*, the round clam, or quahaug; the *Meteaúhock* was probably the *Pyruia carica* or *P. canaliculata*, which have retained the name of "*periwinkle*" on the coast of *New England*. (The two latter species are also known as *Fulgur carica* and *Scycotypus canaliculata*.) From these shells were cut beads of cylindrical shape, through which holes were drilled; these beads were then strung upon cords, or the sinews of animals, and, when woven into plaits about as broad as the hand, made wampum "belts." In early times, various articles were used as substitutes for the shell beads—colored sticks of wood,