

and are of exquisite workmanship, exceeding most copper coins, both ancient and modern." Croker the artist derived lasting honour from them. On the finest is peace in a car, inscribed, "*Pax missa per orbem.*" Another has Britannia under a portal. All readers of Swift's works must remember his "Drapers' Letters," occasioned by the issue of a debased copper coinage in Ireland. It would probably have circulated without complaint but for the Dean's energetic invectives, which quickly raised the anger of the Emerald Islanders to fever heat, and, after a short but violent struggle, the obnoxious coppers were withdrawn. Anne's precious farthings are in great request with collectors, and are said to fetch their weight in gold. The shilling of the same reign is also a very fine coin. In the previous reign, the whole coinage of the country was miserably debased, and when Newton became Master of the Mint, in 1699, it was his grand object to restore its efficiency. In 1705, when he was knighted by Queen Anne, he had to a great extent accomplished this laudable object; at all events, the coin as restored by his labours remained in circulation with little or no change after the death of his royal mistress up to the close of the reign of George II.

The heavy coarse copper money, which now included pence as well as halfpence and farthings, was composed of a very debased species of copper, and often resembled cast-iron more than anything else. The pence, halfpence, and farthings, of George II. were especially clumsy: five shillings worth of them was quite a load, and though indispensable as small change—for there were no silver pieces of a lower denomination than sixpence—it was quite an object to escape such a burden in receiving or paying money. The iron money of ancient Sparta seemed reproduced, recalling to mind the Italian painter who died from fatigue owing to the weight of a money payment. Late in the reign of George III., when my boyish recollections of copper money