

be no burden at the first issue, but of benefit to the meaner sort. Buyers would not be tied to one seller and his bad commodities, if the tokens were made current by authority among all ; and to the poor it would be much relief, since men are like to give a farthing alms that will not part with a greater sum."

Thus, threepenny and fourpenny silver pieces are in great request at charity sermons, though it is a disputed point whether the collections are larger or smaller in consequence.

The issue of King James's royal farthings commenced on May 19, 1613, by proclamation. They had two sceptres in saltier, surmounted by a crown on one side, and the harp on the reverse—perhaps to indicate that, if refused in England, they would be ordered to pass in Ireland. They were not made a legal tender, but merely tokens, for which Government would give other coin on demand. This copper money was distrustfully received, and had but a small circulation. In 1635, Charles I, coined some with a rose instead of a harp. The following year he granted to Henry, Lord Maltravers, and Sir Francis Crane a patent to coin farthings, but they were not made a lawful tender. During the civil war, private persons issued tokens to a vast extent. Charles II. coined halfpence and farthings at the Tower, in 1670, but two years elapsed before they were issued by proclamation. They were composed of pure Swedish copper, and circulated freely until 1684, when they were called in, owing to a dispute as to the value of copper : after which came a coinage of tin farthings, with a copper centre, and the inscription, "*Humorum famulus*, 1685-1686." Halfpence of the same kind were used in the next year, and the use of copper was not resumed till 1696, when all the tin money was called in. Was it from this wretched coin that the cant phrase of "tin," instead of "money," came into vogue? Pinkerton winds up his account of tokens by informing us that "all the farthings of Anne's reign were trial pieces ; they were struck in 1712,