

the coinage ; but the profits of the nefarious trade were so large that even the terror of the gallows did not act as a cure. One clipper was wealthy enough to offer six thousand pounds as bribe for a pardon. He was unsuccessful ; but, as Macaulay remarks, "the fame of his riches did much to counteract the effect which the spectacle of his death was designed to produce."

The falsification known to be practised at the present day are many in kind. Small bits of metal are punched out of good coin, and melted down till there is enough to sell to a refiner. A sovereign is split in two, some of the inner gold taken away, a thin layer of cheaper metal put in the two halves re-soldered, and the milled edge refurbished up. A well-stamped coin is made, but of gold or silver lower in value than the proper standard. A sovereign is "sweated" or subjected to some process that will take off a little of the good gold, without materially affecting the appearance of the surface.

The above-named methods of falsification are, it is believed, not so much practised now in England as at some former periods ; but the beautiful art of electro-metallurgy is, unfortunately, made to assist roguery in these matters. A case that attracted much attention in London some time back showed how far this is carried. In a busy neighbourhood, sovereigns were tendered for purchases at numerous shops, good silver to be received as balance. The sovereigns were so undoubtedly gold, the "ring" so sound, and the devices so perfect, that the coins were taken without suspicion. But the persons who made the purchase became known to the shopkeepers ; questions were asked how golden sovereigns happened to be so plentiful in such a quarter, an assay of the coins was determined on. One of the sovereigns was found to be good gold, and of the right ring, but was one-tenth short of the proper weight. The police, furnished with a clue, obtained entrance into a squalid room contain-