

"It is but the other day that we calmed the public mind as to the notorious "H" penny, and explained that the mysterious and often ill-used letter was in that case simply the initial of Mr. Heaton, a contractor with the Royal Mint for the stamping of bronze coins. Now, Mr. Heaton himself, in addition to issuing genuine money, has given currency to a strange story about tossing pennies, which also requires elucidation. He states that a correspondent in the North sent him an order, with remittance, for two pennies of a very peculiar kind. One was to have 'two heads,' and the other 'two tails.' They were admittedly for tossing purposes, Mr. Reid (the gentleman from whom the order came having, unfortunately, paid away his own double-headed penny by mistake.) Mr. Heaton does not state what reply he returned to his Scotch correspondent, nor whether 'the goods' were forwarded or not. 'Tossing' coins are produced in every mint in the world. They are, however, made only by accident, and ought to be relegated at once to the furnace. Occasionally, through inadvertence on the part of the work-people, they escape with ordinary coins and reach the hands of the public; or they are abstracted from the factory by petty larceny. It would require much detail to explain exactly how double-headed and double-tailed coins of every denomination come sometimes into existence in the rapid striking of money at the Mint. They are simply the result of occasional slips in the action of the machinery, and are known in the language of Her Majesty's coiners as 'brockages' or 'wasters.' Formerly such coins were made for sale from two good coins reduced and brazed together, but we question whether they are often now made. These brazed 'tossing' coins were sold (in copper) at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. each, according to artistic merits; and for this reason we think the Master of the Mint should find out by what method Mr. Reid estimated the value of the two coins he required with carriage at 8½d. only."