

COINS OF SIAM.

BY SIR JOHN BOWRING, F.R.S.



MONEY that circulates in Siam consists principally of silver *ticals* or *bats* of the value of 2s. 6d. sterling, with smaller coins, constituting its subdivisions. The coin is an irregular ball, but has two impressions, made by blows, bearing the King's mark. There is a double tical—a half tical, called *song-salung*—a quarter tical, the *salung*—and the half *salung*, or *fuang*, which represents 1200 cowries. These shells are generally employed for the small purchases of the people, about 100 of them representing a farthing. They are collected on the Siamese coast. Pallegoix says, that for a *fuang* (less than 4d.) fifty or sixty varieties of vegetables may be purchased in the public markets. Four ticals make the Siamese ounce—20 ounces the catty, or Siamese pound of silver. The larger amounts are reckoned in pounds of silver, of which the sterling value is about 10/. Gold coins resembling the silver in form and size, are issued, but in small quantities. Copper coins are issued by individuals in the provinces; and stamped glass, or enamel bearing inscriptions, is also used as a circulating medium. The Government issues promissory notes of various amounts, even to one-eighth of a tical. They do not seem extensively current, and, I believe, have not experienced any depreciation.

“To have a thing is little, if you're not allowed to show it; and to know a thing is nothing unless others know you know it.”—*Lord Neaves*.

“It is more easy to write about money than to obtain it; and those who gain it jest much at those who only know how to write about it.”