

our coinage is admitted to be at least equal to that of any country in the world, it is difficult to believe that the work is done by "machinery more obsolete and inefficient than that of any mint in Europe, not excepting that at Constantinople." Such, however, is the case.

TOSSING PENNIES.



IN the *Birmingham Gazette* we find the following letter, which has been received by Mr. Ralph Heaton, at the Birmingham Mint :

"To Messrs. Heaton and Sons—I had a penny which had two heads upon it, and I have given it away in mistake. I would like another one, so if you will cast two for me, one with two heads and one with two tails. I have enclosed four stamps, and if it is not enough, I will send a few more for your trouble. Let me know by return of post if you can supply me, and oblige

PETER REID,

Bridge of Caley, Blairgowrie.

N.B.—It is for tossing with I want them, and I will pay the postage for them."

The letter was forwarded to the Mint in London, with the following note :

"The Mint, Birmingham, September 3rd, 1875.

To the Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Deputy-Master of the Mint.

Dear Sir,—The note enclosed with 8½d. stamps arrived here yesterday. As I think the application so unique, and as we cannot oblige the applicant with his tossing pennies, I have taken the liberty of sending it to you, and remain,

Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

RALPH HEATON."

Aris's *Birmingham Gazette* of September 18th, furnishes the following further information :
