

having well surveyed it, was very much scandalized at the extravagance of the relief, as he termed it. You know, says he, our religion forbids all idolatry : we admit of no images but such as are drawn on a smooth surface : the figure you have here shown me, stands so much out to the eye, that I would no sooner suffer it in my church than a statue. We must own, however, that the figures on several of our modern medals are raised and rounded to a very great perfection. But if you compare them in this particular with the most finished among the ancients, your men of art declare universally for the latter.

HOW MEDALS AND COINS ARE STRUCK.

BY W. T. BRANDE, F.R.S., ETC.



THE distinction between striking medals, and common coin, is very essential, and the work upon the dies accordingly adjusted to each. Medals are usually in very high relief, and the effect is produced by a succession of blows ; and as the metal in which they are struck, be it gold, silver or copper, acquires considerable hardness at each stroke of the press, they are repeatedly annealed during the progress of bringing them up. Some of the medals, on which the device appears in very bold relief, require as many as thirty blows of a very powerful press to complete the impression, and it is necessary to anneal each medal after every third blow, so that they are placed ten times into the fire for that purpose. In striking a coin or medal, the lateral spread of the metal, which otherwise would ooze out as it were from between the dies, is prevented by the application of a steel collar, accurately turned to the dimensions of the dies, and which, when left plain, gives to the edge of the piece a finished and polished appearance. At times the edge is ornamented, and occasionally lettered, in which case the collar is made in