

brought again, part by our own labours, and part by the Scots, paying to the Scottish people a piece of their coin called a 'bawbee' for every bullet, which is in value English one halfpenny."

THE OLD SCOTTISH MINT.

BY R. CHAMBERS.



THE *Cunyie House*, as the Scottish Mint used to be called, was near Holyrood Palace in the days of Queen Mary. In the regency of Morton, a large house was erected for it in the Cowgate, where it may still be seen, with the following inscription over the door :

DE. MERCYFULL. TO. ME. O. GOD. 1574

In the reign of Charles II., other buildings were added behind, forming a neat quadrangle ; and here was the Scottish coin produced till the Union, when a separate coinage was given up, and this establishment abandoned ; though, to gratify prejudice, the officers were still kept up as sinecures. This court, with its buildings, was a sanctuary for persons prosecuted for debt, as was the King's Stables, a mean place at the west end of the Grassmarket. There was, however, a small den near the top of the oldest building, lighted by a small window looking up the Cowgate, which was used as a jail for debtors or other delinquents condemned by the Mint's own officers.

In the western portion of the old building, accessible by a stair from the court, is a handsome room with an alcove ceiling, and lighted by two handsomely proportioned windows, which is known to have been the council-room of the Mint, being a portion of the private mansion of the master. Here, in May 1590, on a Sunday evening, the town of Edinburgh entertained the Danish lords who accompanied James VI. and his queen from her native court—namely,