

And in the fourth act, we have :—

*Bassanio*—For thy three thousand *ducats*, here is six.

*Shylock*—If every *ducat* in six thousand *ducats*

Were in six parts, and every part a *ducat*,

I would not draw them, I would have my bond.

In “*Hamlet*” we have again mention of this coin,

“How now! a rat? Dead for a *ducat*, dead.”

We may be sure that the coins in England did not escape notice. Edward I. issued a large coinage of pence, halfpence and farthings; but the pence must have greatly outnumbered the other coins, for complaints soon arose of the scarcity of small money. The coins of this issue were stamped with a cross, and with a pike or arrow-head. This is the origin of the old expression “Cross or pike,” which is equivalent to the more modern “Heads or tails.” Quibbles upon this use of the word “cross” are very frequent among the older writers. Shakespeare abounds with them, *Touchstone*, for example says to *Celia*;—

“I had rather bear with you, than bear you, yet I should bear no *cross* if I did bear you, for I think you have no money in your purse.”

In the coinage of 1465, some *nobles* were struck by command of Edward IV., and received the name of rials or royals. These new *nobles* were stamped on one side with a sun. This was the badge of Edward, and to it Gloucester no doubt alludes in the well known lines :—

“Now is the winter of our discontent

Made glorious summer by this *sun* of York.”

In this reign, the *angel* was first coined. It was of the same value as the *noble*, but was distinguished from it by being stamped with the figure of an angel. In the ceremony of “touching for the evil,” this was the coin which was given to the patient to be worn as a sacred amulet. To the use of such an amulet in the earliest times there is a reference in