



NOTES, HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN,
RELATING TO
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

By J. Harris Gibson.

(Read March 6th, 1879, and during the Session.)

MANY interesting and important fragments of history relating to the two counties yet remain undiscovered, and many an existing memoir would be none the worse for revision or re-attribution.

Unrecorded events, customs, or changes can be gathered from every township and village, and much that is erroneous or of doubtful authenticity, found in "County History," may be re-examined and exposed.

There is therefore much material for archæological labour in Lancashire and Cheshire, and the willing searcher may enrich our local records from sources which are by no means yet exhausted.

My purpose is, as much as possible, and at intervals, to bring before this Society only inedited notices or sketches of Lancashire and Cheshire Archæology, Numismata, Biography, Folklore, Customs, &c., but more especially such as refer to our own town and neighbourhood. My aim will be truth and accuracy, and I wont trouble the Society with long extracts from the labours of others.

I must here thank Mr. C. Potter for allowing me to place before you the coins which have been recently found on the Meols beach, Cheshire.

Since summer, 1878, only a few coins have been found

at Meols, and these are but ordinary types. The pieces of any rarity or numismatic value, are the half or part of a William I penny, attributed to Rufus, and the Ipswich penny of Henry II; the latter being well preserved, though badly minted. The miscellaneous pieces not found on the beach are interesting, and serve to illustrate several almost forgotten incidents in local history.

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, 1042—66, from the Meols Beach.

Coll. C. Potter.

A divided Penny; half. *Type*: Profile to the left, and sceptre. *Rev.*: A voided cross on the centre, four conjoined curves or crescents, the points or junctions terminating in knobs or pellets. ON . LEI . (Leicester.) The letters on the half obverse are indistinct, though the profile is good and well struck.

WILLIAM I or II, 1066—87; 1087—1100. Meols Beach.

A divided Penny; half. *Type*: Full face, crowned, a star of six points on either side. EX . (REX) and m.m. a cross pattée. *Rev.*: a cross, the limbs terminating in three pellets; on the centre a small circle and curved square; a pellet on the points. This type has been attributed to William Rufus; but as this is only conjecture, I have classified it under the above heading.

HENRY II; last mintage.

A doubled or folded half, unbroken. This interesting example shews the method by which halfpennies or halves were converted into quarters or farthings (fourthings). It was found on the Meols beach in this state, evenly bent, before breaking.

PENNY, HENRY II, 1154—89, found on the Meols Beach, Cheshire, 1878.

The pennies of the first mintage of Henry II, son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, are for the most part very irregular in form and badly minted, a perfect specimen being seldom met with. They read—HENRI . REX . ANGL. The reverses have the moneyer's name and place of mintage.

The penny from the shore shews a full face of the king ; sceptre resting on the right shoulder ; part of the letters only distinct. *Rev.* : A cross within a circle ; small crosses in the angles. Moneyer's name clipped almost to the circle ; place of mintage perfect, and reads—ON : GIPES + (Ipswich). This is perhaps the first piece, minted at Ipswich, found in this locality.

PENNY, HENRY III, 1216—72, from the Meols Beach.

Obv. : HENRICVS . REX III ; full face and sceptre. *Rev.* : NICOLE . ON . CANT (Canterbury) ; long cross ; pellets in the angles.

EDWARD I, 1272—1307, Meols Beach.

Halfpenny. EDW . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB. *Rev.* : CIVITAS . LONDON ; well preserved.

Halfpenny ; Dublin mint ; Meols beach. Head within a triangle, apex downwards. EDW . R. *Rev.* : CIVITAS . DVBLINIE ; broken, but otherwise well preserved.

PENNY, EDWARD III, 1327—77 ; Meols Beach.

Obv. : EDWARD . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB. *Rev.* : VILL . SCI EDMVNDI . (St. Edmundsbury) ; well preserved.

LIVERPOOL 17TH CENTURY TOKEN, inedited.

Coll. J. H. G.

In Mr. Boyne's* *Catalogue of 17th Century Tokens*, seven of Liverpool are recorded, viz. :—

1. *Obv.* : CHARLES CHRISTIAN ; a castle. *Rev.* : GRO CER IN LIVERPOOLE—HIS PENNY, 1669.
2. *Obv.* : ADDAM CRVMP TON—A. C. *Rev.* : IN LEVERPOOL—1657—(*farthing*).
3. *Obv.* : RICHARD CRVMP TON ; Hope seated on an anchor. *Rev.* : OF LIVERPOOLE, 1667—HIS HALF PENY.
4. *Obv.* : ROGER . GORSVCH . MERCER—the babes in the wood. *Rev.* : IN . LEVERPOOLE . 1672—HIS PENY (heart shape).
5. *Obv.* : THOMAS . IOHNSON—The Grocers' Arms. *Rev.* : IN

* Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century in England, Wales, and Ireland ; by Wm. Boyne, F.S.A., p. 152.

LIVERPOOLE . 1666 . HIS HALF PENY. Thomas Johnson was Bailiff of Liverpool in 1663, and Mayor in 1670. He was father of Sir Thomas Johnson, afterwards M.P. for Liverpool.

6. *Obv.*: IOHN . PEMBERTON—The Apothecaries' Arms. *Rev.*: IN . LIVERPOOLE . 1666—HIS HALF PENY. He was Bailiff of Liverpool in 1660, and built the first house erected in Moore Street. In the "Moore Rental," published by the Chetham Society, he is described as "John "Pemberton the Apothecary."
7. *Obv.*: EDWARD WILLIAMSON . OF; The Drapers' Arms. *Rev.*: LIVERPOOLE . ALDERMAN—HIS HALFE PENNY. Edward Williamson was Mayor of Liverpool in 1663. Williamson Square and Street are called after him.

The unrecorded piece is a farthing. *Obv.*: RALPH HALL—1661. *Rev.*: OF . LIVERPOOLE . R . E . H . The latter letters are his own and wife's initials; H for Hall.

This small brass money was used for the convenience of trade, and issued by the corporations of cities and boroughs, country villages, companies, and tradespeople.

The pieces consisted of pence, halfpence, and farthings, and were either heart-shaped, octagonal, or round. In larger towns, where different tokens were current, the shopkeeper kept a sorting box, divided by partitions, by which he kept each tradesman's money separate; when he had collected a sufficient quantity of one sort, he received from the owner an equivalent in silver. The issue of copper farthings by Charles II, 1672, entirely superseded the use of this "necessary change."

CHESTER HALFPENNY, 1667, found in Liverpool. *Coll.* J. H. G. *Obv.*: IAMES KNOWSLEY; The Arms of Chester, three garbs. *Rev.*: OF CHESTER . 1667 . HIS HALFE PENNY. James Knowsley was Sergeant-at-Mace in the Mayoralty of William Edwards in 1646.*

LIVERPOOL HALFPENNY, found November, 1878, when taking

* Boyne's Tokens.

down part of an old house No. 16, Colquitt Street. This piece is the well known Liverpool halfpenny.

Obv.: The Town Arms and Motto—DEUS NOBIS HÆC OTIA
FECIT. *Rev.*: A ship and LIVERPOOL HALFPENNY. *Edge*:
PAYABLE AT THE WAREHOUSE OF THOMAS CLARKE.

There are many varieties of this token, but nearly all are counterfeits. The piece found in Colquitt Street is one originally issued by Mr. Clarke,* and manufactured by John Gregory Hancock, Die Sinker, Birmingham. Among the counterfeits often met with, some have the edge reading—"payable at the "warehouse Liverpool," "payable at London or Anglesey," &c.; others are without lettering, the edge being either smooth or milled.

LEYLAND'S ELECTION, Liverpool, 1816. SILVER MEDAL.

Coll. J. H. G.

The candidates for Parliamentary honours at this election, which commenced June 7, 1816, were George Canning and Thomas Leyland. At the close of the poll the numbers were—for Canning, 1280; for Leyland, 738. Each person who voted for Mr. Leyland received a silver medal, weighing nearly three-quarters of an ounce.

Obv.: The Liver standing upon sedgy ground, the sea and a ship and two sloops in the distance. *Legend*: LIVERPOOL BE FREE. *Rev.* (inscribed): ONE OF THE INDEPENDENT MINORITY . 738 . WHO VOTED FOR THOS. LEYLAND ESQ. AT THE LIVERPOOL ELECTION 1816. A mural crown, and recipient's name engraved above; pierced for suspension. This medal was engraved by Halliday.

I have five. The engraved names of the voters are:—Thos. Gerard, R. S. Tate, Josh. Bennet, William McKee, and Thos. Haswell. The name of the latter only appears in the Directory for 1816, where he is described as a bootmaker, 21, Oldhall Street. The medals were purchased by subscription. The

* Thomas Clarke kept the grocery warehouse, 66 and 67, Cable Street. He was succeeded by Mr. Sedman Parker.

following advertisement appeared in the *Liverpool Mercury*, of Friday, 19th July, 1816 :—

“MEDALS FOR THE 738 FREEMEN—Subscription Books are now open for the purpose of procuring Silver Medals for the 738 Freemen who, at the late Election, had the spirit to assert their independence.”

“ETNA” STEAM PACKET, 1817. PASSENGER'S TICKET.

Coll. J. H. G.

Copper Tally or Check. *Obv.* : The Liver above ; PRO BONO PUBLICO—below PASS^R (passenger) engraved. *Rev.* inscribed : ETNA . 1817 and PASS^R.

The “Etna”* Tranmere Ferry Steam Packet commenced running from the New Slip, at the west side of the Queen's dock graving docks, on Saturday morning, the 26th April, 1817, at seven o'clock, and to carry passengers at the following rates :— on Sundays 4d., working days 3d. ; market people allowed to carry three baskets or hampers without additional charge.

The “Etna” was built in a yard near the Queen's dock, and launched in March, 1817. She “consisted of two vessels 65 feet in length, connected by beams, and over the whole a deck 28 feet wide, and propelled by a wheel placed in the centre.”†

It has been said that the “Etna” was the first steamer that plied on the Mersey ; this is incorrect. On June 30th, 1816, at five o'clock in the morning, a steam packet left Runcorn, and arrived at Liverpool at seven, completing the voyage in two hours.‡ Again, on September 6th, 1816, the public were informed, that “the new and elegant Steam Packet, the ‘Princess Charlotte,’ would go from the New Parade Slip every morning, at eight o'clock, and every afternoon at three, to Eastham (for Chester). “The fare to Eastham and back, one shilling each.” By this announcement it will be seen that vessels propelled by steam power plied on the Mersey nearly twelve months before the “Etna” crossed from this side to the old Tranmere Ferry.

* *Liverpool Mercury*, Friday, April 25th, 1817.

† *Liverpool Mercury*, February 28th, 1817. ‡ *Liverpool Mercury*, July 5th, 1816.

COPPER TICKET, from Liverpool to Hoylake, 1821.

Found at Hoylake.—Coll. C. Potter.

Obv. : (within a circle) HOYLAKE inscribed ; above, outside the circle, BEST CABIN ; below, 1821. *Rev.* : The same.

This broad tally or check was given to passengers on receipt of fare for the journey, by the steamboat "Cambria," from Liverpool to Hoylake.

The vessel was launched in May, 1821, and commanded by Captain Joseph Williams. She measured "90 feet in length, and "was propelled by two engines."* The "Cambria" commenced sailing daily from St. George's Dock, Pierhead, on the 15th June, to Bagillt, calling at Hoylake "in passing, to receive and land "passengers." The "Cambria" Packet Office was at Mr. Grerows', 20, Nova Scotia. Information also could be obtained at the Saracen's Head, Dale street.

LIVERPOOL TOKEN.

Obv. : HORSE ARTILLERY ; a mounted horse artillery soldier.

Rev. : WANTED FOR THE EAST INDIES—APPLY AT THE LONDON ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

A brass token or check, farthing size, and used at the rendezvous for East India recruits, No. 1, Audley Street, London Road. This office was opened about the year 1823, and closed about 1832. In 1829 the General Recruiting Office was at 19, Falkland Street ; it was afterwards removed to Boundary Place, Low Hill, and in 1839 to No. 19, Prescott Street, the corner of Moira Street. There was also in 1827 a rendezvous for volunteer seamen at the bottom of Greenland Street.

MINIATURE PORTRAITS BY MRS. LIGHTFOOT, LIVERPOOL.

I have not been able to ascertain when this lady lived, or where she resided. The advertisement pasted on the back of the portraits is undated and gives no address ; but, from the style of costume, we may, however, fix the time somewhere about the year 1780.

* *Liverpool Mercury*, May, 1821.

The profile portraits are those of two ladies and a gentleman, evidently members of the same family. The ladies are attired in pretty mob caps, of a medium height, according to the prevailing fashion; the young gentleman in a close, short tye wig and cravat. Mrs. Lightfoot's process was the silhouette or profile, taken in shade, and transferred or painted on a smooth surface of Plaster of Paris. The following is the advertisement attached to the portraits :—

PERFECT
 LIKENESSES
 IN MINIATURE PROFILE,
 taken by
 MRS. LIGHTFOOT, LIVERPOOL,
 And reduced on a plan entirely new, which preserves the
 most exact symmetry and animated expression
 of the FEATURE much superior to
 any other method.

—————
 TIME OF SITTING ONE MINUTE.
 —————

N.B.—She keeps the original shades, and can supply those she has once taken with any number of duplicates. Those who have shades by them may have them reduced, and dressed in the present taste.

—————
All orders addressed to MRS. LIGHTFOOT, Liverpool, will be punctually dispatched.
 —————

A RELIC OF THE ROYAL VISIT TO LIVERPOOL, SEPTEMBER, 1806.

This interesting and perhaps unique memento of the visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence to Liverpool, not only displays considerable ingenuity and enthusiasm, but conveys to us the actual appearance of the Town Hall during the illumination.

The small picture represents the civic building carefully drawn on cardboard, stretched on a wooden frame, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and perforated to shew the illumination, from the figure of Britannia and the top of the dome to the basement. On the lower windows are the letters G. P. W.—George Prince of Wales; and “Long

“live the Prince.” The time indicated by the clock is half-past ten, when no doubt the artist was present, and stood in Castle street.

The fac-simile of the illumination is best seen when the drawing is held up to the light.

AN OLD LIVERPOOL SERMON PREACHED BY CHRISTOPHER BASSNETT, AND DEDICATED TO BRYAN BLUNDELL, THE FOUNDER OF THE BLUE COAT HOSPITAL.

This is an addition to Dr. Dawson’s “Pamphlet Literature of “Liverpool.”* The sermon is interesting in several particulars. It was preached in Liverpool, to a ship’s company, by a Presbyterian minister, on Thursday, December 13th, 1711, and the following Sunday; published, as recorded in the imprimatur, in 1712; and dedicated to one who was a public benefactor, and whose memory is still revered as the founder of the Blue Coat Hospital. The title runs thus:—

The Seaman’s Character and Calling considered and improved.

IN A
SERMON

Begun to a

SHIP’S COMPANY,

Upon Thursday, December the 13th.

The remaining Part Preach’d the following *Lord’s Day*, in the Afternoon, at the New Meeting-House in Liverpool, MDCCXI.

BY CHRISTOPHER BASSNET.

LONDON:

Printed for *John Clark* at the *Bible and Crown* in the *Old Change*, and sold by *Dan. Birchall* in Liverpool, MDCCXII.

Price Six Pence.

The gentleman to whom this sermon is dedicated was Mr. Bryan Blundell, Captain of the “Cleveland.”

* *Transactions, Hist. Soc.*, vol. xvii, p. 73.

The preacher, in the dedication, quaintly but most truthfully observes, that,—“It was upon your account my good friend that
 “I preached this Sermon. I have resolved upon the publication,
 “not for the sake of any Curiosity in the Composition, but for
 “the good Example it presents the world with. Could I alledge
 “no other reason, I should reckon it very sufficient, that hereby
 “I have an opportunity of shewing to men of your Profession
 “and way, the rare and Singular good Pattern that you have set
 “’em, who never put out to, or return from Sea. Beside this, I
 “thought it might not be amiss, to let some People see, how we
 “spend our Time on such Occasions as that which has given Rise
 “to this Sermon. Acting upon wise and calm principles, you
 “are not to be moved with mere hurry and violence : these are
 “no proper Instruments to gain upon the Wise, the Sober, the
 “Rational Part of Mankind : However successful they may be
 “in animating the Mobile, which naturally runs into Disorder
 “and Tumult ; and therefore are joynd in Scripture with a very
 “Unruly Element, which you have had plentiful experience of ;
 “The Noise of the Seas, the Noise of their Waves, and after
 “these you know comes the Tumult of the People. Every
 “Body, my Friend, is ready to acknowledge your Worth, and to
 “rejoice in your Success and Prosperity.

“Your Friend

“Toxteth Park, *near*
 “Leverpool, *March 1st*
 “1711.”

“*and*
 “Humble Servant,
 “C. BASSNETT.”

I am not aware that it is recorded in any biographical notice of Mr. Bryan Blundell that he commanded the good ship “Cleveland,” or that a sermon, especially prepared for seamen, was preached on his account, and by his desire. Mr. Bassnett mentions this in the commencement of his dedication ; he again alludes to it in the conclusion of his discourse.

“I should have thought,” says the preacher, “my Time but
 “indifferently spent, and I am sure I had directly crossed the
 “Intentions of him, at whose Request it is that I have been
 “speaking to you.”

Little, however, is known of the early history of the founder of the Blue Coat Hospital. The Rev. Mr. Neale, in his short memoir,* says, "Many, but vain, have been my efforts to procure documents which would throw light on the early life of this self-denying man. The utmost that I could obtain was the following note from a near descendant of the philanthropist. The lady writes :—'The papers left at my much-respected ancestor's decease have passed through so many different hands that I fear there are very few, if any, documents relating to his early history now in existence.'"

From the few short notices of this worthy benefactor which have, from time to time, been published, we glean the following. He was born in the year 1674. In early life he became a sailor, and, according to Mr. Picton,† "sailed as captain from the port of Liverpool, and by industry and integrity acquired means to purchase a vessel, which he commanded himself." This may have been the "Cleveland," which ship it is certain he commanded in the year 1711. He would then be in his 38th year, the time when he determined to establish a school for poor children, which ultimately resulted in the foundation of the Blue Coat Hospital. Commencing business as a merchant, he was so far successful as to be able to devote a tenth part of his income for the benefit of his favourite institution. He was twice Mayor of Liverpool, 1721 and 1728, and died, full of years and honour, in 1756, aged 82; he was buried on the south side of St. Nicholas' Church. His portrait hangs in the board room of the School. "There is in the picture all the roughness of the sailor, all the hardihood, all the daring ;"

"A noble race they are, with all their faults !

"What other land can grow them ?"

The old chapel in Key street‡ was purchased by the Church of England in 1791.§ It was consecrated and opened for Divine service as St. Matthew's in 1795, and continued as such until 1849, when it was taken down, the site being required for the

* Rev. Erskine Neale, M.A. *The Riches that bring no sorrow.* London, 1852.

† *Memorials of Liverpool.*

‡ For a view of St. Matthew's Church, see *Proceedings Hist. Soc.*, vol. v, p. 20.

§ The old congregation removed with their pastor, Mr. John Yates, to the New Chapel in Paradise street, now the Colosseum.

new Exchange Station or terminus of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

Mr. Christopher Bassnett was the first minister of the Presbyterian Chapel in Key street. The building was opened for Divine worship in 1707, and is no doubt the "New Meeting House in Liverpool," where the sermon was preached to a ship's company forming the crew of the "Cleveland," Captain Bryan Blundell.

We gather from the pamphlet that Mr. Bassnett enjoyed the friendship of Captain Blundell. He says in his dedication:—
 "I have done, when I have thank'd you for the large share that
 "you have allow'd me in your Friendship, and for the tender
 "sympathy that you express'd towards me, in that very Gloomy
 "Dispensation which of late I have been under."*

There is a degree of quaintness and humour noticeable in the discourse. "Shipping," he says, "is a great and noble Invention, "it is the strength and Bulwark, the riches and ornament of a "nation; especially such a One as ours is, which is encompassed "with the Sea, and environed with the vast deep: A shovel-ful "of Earth thrown up in the midst of the Sea." Again:—"Idle "Sailors are great burdens at Sea; and it is much better having "their Room than their Company; such men are but bad "ballast and yet that is the best thing you can make of 'em on "Ship-board." About the time that this sermon was delivered, Mr. Picton says,—
 "Liverpool had no inducement to enter into
 "the slave trade. In 1709 a single barque of 30 tons burden,
 "from Liverpool, made a venture, and carried fifteen slaves
 "across the Atlantic. Nothing more was done for the next
 "twenty-one years."†

Mr. Bassnett very cautiously alludes to this infamous business, in speaking of "the *Guinea Trade*, so far as it relates to the *Negroes*." He says—"For tho' 'tis a Trade that the laws of our "Country allow us to follow, yet it carries considerable Difficulties "along with it, to which it is not easie to return clear and satis-
 "factory Answers. Supposing the calling should be in itself

* Mr. Bassnett died in 1744.

† Picton's *Memorials of Liverpool*, 2nd edit., vol. i, 193.

“lawful, in order to render it innocent to those that are engaged
“in it, Such should see that they treat these poor miserable
“people with humanity; they should at least take care, that they
“don’t deal unmercifully by ’em. They should show ’em some
“respect, if not for their own sakes, yet for the sake of the
“*Common Humane Nature* which they wear, they should not be
“cruel to, nor *hide Themselves from their own flesh.*”

From this short extract it might be inferred that the crew of the “Cleveland” were not unacquainted with the trafic alluded to. The vessel may have traded on the African coast, and shipped slaves for some western port; hence the gentle admonition.

The foregoing short memoir of two individuals once honoured in their day is a small addition to the little that is recorded.

THE “EYES” BOOKPLATE.

This may be regarded more as an example of fancy heraldry than an accurate display of family arms. True, Mr. Chas. Eyes may have received a grant “for his own use” from Herald’s College; but, looking at the charge, which is all “Eyes,” and simply alludes to the name, in all probability he invented, designed, and assumed it himself.

The form of the shield is an ornamented, irregular oval, and blazoned—Gules, three eyes, two above one, proper. *Crest*: A Cockatrice. *Motto*: “Nil visu dulcius.” Underneath—“Chas. Eyes, Liverpool.”

The Eyes family were long settled in Liverpool. Mr. Charles Eyes was an architect and surveyor, at No. 1, Basnett street. He is well known as the publisher of a map of Liverpool in 1785; he was also architect of the old Music Hall, Bold street.

QUARTER NOBLE, EDWARD III, 1327—77.

Found on the Meols beach, March, 1879.—Coll. C. Potter.

Notices of finds of gold coins on the Cheshire shore are exceedingly scanty. Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith, in Dr. Hume’s *Ancient Meols*, mentions only two pieces, viz., a half-noble, Edward III, “known only from description;” and a double-

crown, James I, type : HENRICUS . ROSAS . REGNA . JACOBUS . However nothing whatever is known of the half-noble, and its identity is based only upon presumptive evidence. As regards the double-crown, it may have been found somewhere inland, or, if on the beach, certainly not washed from the peat soil.

Mr. Smith, probably in allusion to the discovery of either one or both of these coins, says :—"The young son of a Hoylake fisherman picked up at low water, in the latter part of the year, "a gold piece ; but on his way to Birkenhead, where he had "thought to dispose of it, the coin was somehow lost. The only "other mediæval coin in gold of which we remember to have "heard, was disposed of by the finder's mother to a Jew pedlar. "Thus both have been lost to Collectors."

It must be a matter of much satisfaction to the members of the Historic Society that they have now the opportunity of recording, for the first time, the discovery of a piece of gold money on the Meols Beach, and Mr. Potter may indeed be congratulated on adding an uncommon acquisition to his numerous and valuable collection.

This collection of ancient Cheshire coins (which represents a definite period, from the Roman occupation to the reign of Edward III), is now becoming one of much local interest ; all, without exception, having been loosened and washed by successive tides from the peaty surface-soil, which underlies the North Wirral sandhills in the neighbourhood of the Dove landmarks.

The quarter-noble, Edward III, was found a short distance west of the Dove marks, on or about the 20th March, 1879, during the prevalence of strong east winds, which, at this time of the year, usually visit the coast. Mr. Potter secured the coin on Saturday, March 22nd, together with a number of personal ornaments, in bronze and pewter, of the Norman or Plantagenet period.

Description. *Obv.* : * EDWARD * DEI * GRA * REX * ANGL.

A beaded shield quartering first and fourth France ancient, second and third England, within a double tressure of eight curves.

Rev. : * EXALTABITVR † IN † GLORIA. A cross fleury terminating in fleurs-de-lis, a fleur-de-lis in the centre, a lion passant in each angle, within a double tressure of eight curves; weight 24 grains. In a good state of preservation, slight detrition only being noticeable.

The half-noble, with the rather uncommon central ornament, a fleur-de-lis, is usually assigned to this monarch's 27th year, or 1353, though we have no positive evidence for such attribution. The coin may have been minted a few years later, but not earlier, and may be regarded as "entirely English," the titles France and Ireland being omitted. It will be observed that the arms of France occupy the principal quarter in the shield; they were assumed by King Edward in his 14th year, which was publicly announced by writ, dated April 16, 1340.

"He chaunged his armes, in banners and pennons,
 "And in his seale, quartered of both regions.
 "And in the yere then of his reygne thyrtene,
 "His armes chaunged, and called Kyng of Frauce."

The old arms of France, or *France Ancient*, is an azure field semée-de-lis; this was changed by the French king in 1364 to a field charged with three golden lis, or *France Modern*. The change in England was first adopted in the reign of Henry IV, 1399—1413.

FOREIGN STERLINGS. Found on the Meols Beach.

Coll. C. Potter.

The presence of foreign sterlings* among the heterogeneous waifs picked up on the Cheshire shore, are evidences of a monetary element circulating in this country different to the authorized legal currency.

Three of these have been found during recent years. The first is of Hainault, and was minted at Valenciennes.

John II, Count of Hainault, 1280—1304.

Obv. : † I † COMES † HANONIE ; m.m. a cross patée. Rev. : VAL—ENC—NEN—ENS (Valenciennes), divided by a long plain cross, inner beaded circle, and three pellets in each of the angles.

* Value equivalent to a penny.

John D'Avesne, Count of Hainault and Holland, was grandson of Bouchard D'Avesne, the husband of Margaret, Countess of Hainault and Flanders. His father, John I, declared heir to the County of Hainault by the peers of France in 1246, died during the lifetime of his mother, in the year 1257. John II succeeded in 1280, and died in 1304. His son William the Good following, died at Valenciennes 1337. This prince was father of Philippa, who was married to King Edward III at York, 1327.

Sterling of Herstal.

Obv. : IOHANNES . DE . LOVANO ; m.m. a cross patée ; full face ; head bare. *Rev.* : DNS DE ° HAR . . EL (Harstel), Dominus de Harstal ; long cross, three pellets in each angle. This coin is attributed to John I of Louvain, and Lord of Herstal, 1285—1309.

Louvain (*Louvanium*) is a town in Belgium. In the 14th century it was the capital of Brabant, and residence of its princes. Herstal or Heristall (*Haristalium*) is a town on the Meuse, three miles north of Liége. It had formerly an ancient castle, the residence of the Lords of Herstal ; later it was included in the duchy of Lower Lorraine, and afterwards granted as an appanage to the younger sons of the dukes of Brabant. In 1546 it was united to the principality of Liége. From this illustrious house descended Pepin the Short, Lord of Herstal, and father of Charlemagne, the first of the Carolingian kings.

Sterling of Gaucher II, Count of Porcien.

Obv. : * GALCHS . COMES . PORC—Galcherus comes Porciensis ; full face, crowned ; m.m. a cross patée. *Rev.* : MONET . NOVA . VVE ; long cross, three pellets in each angle. Struck at Ive.

Porcien (Porcensis or Porcianus) was a principality of France, and situated in Champagne. It was sold by Raoul de Château Porcien in 1268 to Thibaut King of Navarre, Count of Champagne. Passing to Philippe le Bel, that monarch gave it in 1303 to Gaucher II of Châtillon, Constable of France, in exchange for the lordship of Châtillon-sur-Marne. Gaucher married, 1314, Isabelle de Rumigny, widow of Thibaut II Duke of Lorraine, and died in 1329.