

E N G L I S H
COMPUTATION

NUMBERING, WEIGHTS & MEASURES, MONEY, &c.

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or the
PRESENT STATE OF
E N G L A N D

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I

ENGLISH COMPUTATION

In *England* at the beginning of Christianity they counted, as all other Christians, according to the then *Roman Accounts*, by the Year since the building of *Rome*, by the Consuls, or by the Years of the Reign of the Emperors, afterwards (in the reign of *Constantine* the first Christian Emperor) by *Indictions*, or Fifteen Years. At length, in the Reign of the Emperor *Justinian*, 532 Years after Christs Incarnation, (and not before) all Christians generally began to account *ab Anno Christi Incarnati*; at which time one *Dionysius Exiguus*, or *Abbas*, a worthy *Roman*, had finished a Cycle for the Observation of *Easter*, which was then generally receiv'd, and is still observ'd by the Church of *England*; the Ground whereof is this; the *Vernal Equinox* at that time was accounted to be the 21st of *March*, and by consequence must be the earliest *Full Moon*, and then *March* the 8th, must be the earliest *New Moon*, and *April* the 18th, must be the latest *Full Moon*, which hapning on a *Sunday*, (as it will when the *Dominical Letter* is C. and the *Golden Number* 8.) then *Easter* that Year will be *April* the 25th. So when the *New Moon* shall be on *March* 2. (as it will when the *Dominical Letter* is D. and the *Golden Number* is 16.) then *Easter* will be on the 22^d of *March*, as was in the Year 1668.

But the *Romish* Church inventing new Rules for finding of *Easter*, it happens sometimes their *Easter* is full Five Weeks before ours, and sometimes with ours, but never after ours; for Pope *Gregory* the Thirteenth, in the Year 1582, having observed that upon an exact Account, the Year contained above 365 Days, not full 6 Hours (as had been from the time of *Julius Caesar* hitherto reckoned) but only five Hours, forty six Minutes, and sixteen Seconds; and this difference of almost eleven Minutes in the space of about 134 Years make one whole Day; which not being considered since the Regulation of *Easter*, had brought back the Year at least ten Days; insomuch that the *Vernal Equinox*, which was at first on the 21st of *March*, was now on the 11th of *March*; by reason whereof two *Full Moons* pass between the *Equinox* and *Easter*; contrary to the primitive Institution thereof; which was, That *Easter* should always be observ'd on the *Sunday following the first Full Moon after the Vernal Equinox*. Pope *Gregory* then having observ'd these Inconveniences, resolv'd at once to take away ten Days, and that out of the Month of *October*, by calling the 5th Day thereof the 15th; and that for that Year, those Festivals which fell in those ten Days, which by reason of the Vintage time, were but few, should be celebrated upon the 15th, 16th, and 17th Days of the Month; and that the *Equinox* might never retrocede for the future, it was then provided, that every 400 Years three *Bissextile* Years should be left out; that is, in the Year 1700, 1800, and 1900; and so again in 2100, 2200, and 2300, leaving the Year 2000 to have its *Bissextile*, and so every 400th Year.

The *English Nation*, as all other States that withdrew themselves from under the Bishop of *Rome's* usurped Authority before the said Year 1582, except *Holland* and *Zealand*, observe still the Ancient Account made by *Julius Cæsar* forty three Years before the Birth of Christ, and is therefore called the *Old Stile*, or *Julian Account*; the other observed by those who are still under the *Romish Yoke*, is called the *New Stile*, or *Gregorian Account*; and is, (by reason of the aforesaid ten Days taken away, with the *Bissexitle* the last Year) now eleven Days before ours, for the beginning of the Months, and for all fixed Festivals; but variable for all moveable Feasts.

Easter, and the other moveable Feasts in England, are most certainly thus found; Shrove Tuesday is always the first Tuesday after the first New Moon after January, and the Sunday following is Quadragesima, and the sixth Sunday after is Easter-day, and the fifth Sunday after Easter is Rogation Sunday, and the Thursday following, being forty Days after the Resurrection, is Ascension Day; Ten Days after which, or fifty Days after Easter is Pentecost, or Whitsunday, and the Sunday following is Trinity-Sunday: Which Computation of the Church of England, agrees with all the Eastern Christian Churches; for they and we find *Easter* by the Rules which were generally received by all Christendom, Anno 532. and ever since, till 1582, it was altered by the Pope as aforesaid, and that was, That Easter Day should always be on the first Sunday after the first full Moon after the 21st of March, which was then the Vernal Equinox. Yet it cannot be denied, but that this old Computation may sometimes be inconvenient; for though the Church begin the Year January 1. yet the State beginning the Year March 25. according to our Lawyers reckoning, two *Easters* will be observed in one Year; as in the Year 1667, the first *Easter* fell out the 25th of April, and the second the 22^d of March following, and not one *Easter* in the ensuing Twelve Months, as the Author observed formerly in his Proposals to the Parliament, concerning *England's* Wants.

But to reduce all to the same order, as it was at the Birth of Christ, then so the *Annuntiation* or Conception of our Saviour may be at the *Vernal Equinox*, his *Nativity* at the *Winter Solstice* as it ought to be, may easily be effected, if the King had been pleased to command, That from the Year 1681. forward, there might have been omitted fifteen Leap Years; that is, if there had been no more *Dies Intercalares* for the next sixty Years to come, but that every Year should consist of 365 Days only, for thereby would the Year be brought back just twelve Days, eleven hours, six Minutes and eight Seconds; for the Year consisting of 365 Days, four Hours, forty nine Minutes, and sixteen Seconds, every fourth Year putting in a whole Day, or twenty four Hours, there is put in too much by forty two Minutes and fifty six Seconds, which by 418 Leap Years since Christ's Birth, to the Year 1681, have thrust back our Year 12 Days, eleven Hours, six Minutes, and eight Seconds.

Advent Sunday hath a peculiar Rule, and is always the fourth Sunday before *Christmas Day*, or the nearest *Sunday* to *St. Andrew's Day*, whether before or after.

The Year in *England*, according to the Cycles of the Sun and Moon; and according to Almanacks, begins on the first of *January*; but the *English* Church begins the Year from the Day of Christs Incarnation, on the 25th of *March*, which is also observed in *Spain*. Yet the *Portugueses* (as in divers Countries in *Africa*) begin their Year on the 29th of *August*; the *Venetians* on the first of *March*, according to the *Epact*; the *Grecians* on the longest Day; as the Old *Romans* did on the shortest Day; which two last seem to have most Reason, as beginning just at the Periodical Day of the Sun's Return.

The Natural Day consisting of twenty four Hours, is begun in *England*, according to the Custom of the *Egyptians* and ancient *Romans*, at Midnight, and counted by twelve Hours to Mid-Day, and again by twelve Hours to next Midnight; whereas in *Italy*, *Bohemia*, *Poland*, and some other Countries, their Account is from Sun-setting by twenty four of the Clock, to the next Sun-setting; and at *Noremberg* and *Wittenberg* in Germany, according to the Old *Jewish* and *Babylonian* Account, they begin at the first hour after Sun-rising, to count one of the Clock, and so again at the first hour after Sun-setting; but *Astronomers* accommodating their Calculations to the most noble time of the Day, begin their Account from Noon to Noon, as do still the *Arabians* and some others.

2

ENGLISH NUMBERING

There was a time when Names of Number amongst all civiliz'd Nations were unknown to them, and probably they then applied the Fingers of one, and sometimes of both Hands to things whereof they desired to keep Account; (as is yet done amongst the illiterate *Indians*) and thence it may be that the numeral Words are but Ten in any Nation, and in some Nations but Five, and then they begin again, as after *Decem*, *Undecim*, *Duodecim*, &c.

Things that are solid by Tale and not Weight, are thus accounted.

Cod-fish, Halberdine, Ling, &c. have 124 to the C. Eels 24 to the Strike; 10 Strike to the Bind. Herrings 120 to the C. 12 Hundred to the Thousand, which make a Barrel; and 12 Barrels a Last.

Of Furrs, Filches, Grays, Jennets, Martins, Mincks, Sables, 40 Skins is a Timber; other Skins five Score to the Hundred.

Of Paper 24 or 25 Sheets to the Quire; 20 Quire to a Ream; 10 Ream to a Bale.

Of Parchment, 12 Skins make a Dozen; and 5 Dozen a Roll.

Of Hides, 10 are a Dicker; 20 Dickers a Last. Of Gloves, 10 Pair a Dicker.

3

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

For *Weights* and *Measures* at present used in *England*, there are very many excellent Statutes and Ordinances, and abundance of care taken by our Ancestors to prevent all Cheating and Deceit therein.

By the 27th Chap. of *Magna Carta*, the Weights and Measures ought to be the same over all *England*, and those to be according to the King's Standards of Weights and Measures, kept in the *Exchequer*, by a special Officer of his House, called the *Clerk*, or *Comptroller* of the Market.

Of Weights there are two sorts used at present throughout all *England*, viz. *Troy-weight*, and *Avoirdupois*. In *Troy-weight*, 24 Grains of Wheat make a Penny-weight Sterling, 20 Penny-weight make one Ounce, 12 Ounces make a Pound; so there 480 Grains in the Ounce, and 5760 Grains in the Pound.

By *Troy-weight* we weigh *Bread, Corn, Gold, Silver, Jewels, and Liquors*: The *Apothecaries* and *Goldsmiths* have the same Pound, Ounce, and Grain; but they differ in their intermediate Divisions.

The *Apothecaries* reckon 20 Grains *Gr.* make a Scruple \ominus , 3 Scruples a Drachm ℥ , 8 Drachms 1 Ounce ℥ , 12 Ounces 1 Pound *lb*, so that there is in

<i>lb</i>	℥	℥	\ominus	<i>Gr.</i>
1	12	96	288	5760
	1	8	24	480
		1	3	60
			1	20

Note, That although the *Apothecaries* make up their Medicines by *Troy-weight*, they buy their Drugs by *Avoirdupois Weights*.

The *Goldsmiths* reckon 24 *Gr.* make a Penny weight, 20 Pen. wt. 1 Oun. 12 Oun. 1 Pound. So that there is in

<i>lb</i>	℥	<i>Pen wt.</i>	<i>Gr.</i>
1	12	240	5760
	1	20	480
		1	24

By *Avoirdupois Weight* are all other things weighed, as Mercery and Grocery Ware, Metals, Wool, Tallow, and the like, which they account thus, 16 Drachms make an Ounce, 16 Ounces a Pound, 28 Pounds a Quarter, 4 Quarters an Hundred, 20 Hundred a Tun: So that there is in

<i>Tun.</i>	<i>Hund.</i>	<i>Quart.</i>	<i>Pound.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Drachms</i>
1	20	80	2240	35840	573440
	1	4	112	1792	28672
		1	28	448	7168
			1	16	256
				1	16

The *Troy* Ounce is more than the *Avoirdupois* Ounce, for 51 Ounces *Troy* are equal to 56 Ounces *Avoirdupois*.

But the *Avoirdupois* Pound is more than the *Troy* Pound, for 14 Pound *Avoirdupois* are equal to 17 lb *Troy* Weight.

Note, That Bakers who live in Corporation Towns make their Bread by *Troy* Weight, but they who live not in Corporations are to make it by *Avoirdupois* weight; for Freemen are allow'd 3 *d.* in the Bushel more for Profit, than those that are not free.

For Instance, when the current Market-Price of middling wheat is 5 *s.* per Bushel, a Freeman Baker must make a Penny Wheaten Loaf to weigh 11 Ounces *Troy* weight, and Three Half-penny White-loaves the like weight: but they that are not Freemen must make it as heavy when the Market Price is but 4 *s.* 9 *d.* per Bushel; and when it is 5 *s.* per Bushel, they must outweigh the Freemens Penny-Loaf by ten Drachms, and make their Household Penny-Loaf a Pound or 16 Ounces *Avoirdupois*, and fourteen Drachms.

The *Tun* is Twenty Hundred weight of everything but Lead, of which there is but Nineteen Hundred and a half to the Tun or *Fodder*.

Wood is weigh'd by the *Clove*, which is seven Pound, or by the *Stone*, which is fourteen Pounds; or by the *Tod. i. e.* Twenty eight Pounds; or by the *Wey*, 182 Pounds; or the *Sack*, 364 Pounds; or the *Last*, 4568 Pounds.

In *Essex* they weigh Cheese and Butter by 8 Pounds to the *Clove*, and 31 *Clove*, or 256 Pounds to the *Wey*: In *Suffolk* they allow 42 of those *Cloves*, or 336 Pounds to the *Wey*.

Butchers commonly allow but 8 Pounds to the Stone, Horse Racers 14.

56 Pounds of Butter, or 60 Pounds of Soap make a Firkin, and 2 Firkins a Barrel.

A *Faggot* of Steel is 120 Pounds; a Burden of Gad Steel is 180 Pounds; Iron and Shot are weigh'd 14 Pounds to the Stone, 28 to the Quarter, &c.

Hay is sold by the *Truss* 56 Pounds, and by the *Load* 36 *Trusses*, 1800 or 2016 Pounds.

Sugar, Pepper, Nutmeg, Cinnamon, Allum have but 13 Pounds and a half to the Stone,

and 108 Pounds to the Hundred.

A *Seam* of Glass is 24 *Stone*, 5 Pounds to the *Stone* make 120 Pounds.

A *Barrel* of Gunpowder is 100 Pounds, and 24 *Barrel*s to the *Last*.

4

MEASURES

All Measures in *England* are either *Applicative* or *Receptive*.

The smallest *Mensura Applicationis*, or Applicative Measure, is a *Barly-corn*, where of 3 in length make a Fingers breadth, or *Inch*, 4 *Inches* make a *Hand*, 3 *Hand* a *Foot*, 1 *Foot* and a *half* makes a *Cubit*, 2 *Cubits* a *Yard*; in a *Yard* are 16 *Neyles*, 1 *Yard* and a *Quarter* makes an *Ell*; a *Dutch Ell* or *Stick*, by which *Tapestry* is measured, is but $\frac{3}{4}$ of a *Yard*, 5 *Foot* make a *Geometrical Pace*, 6 *Foot* a *Fathom*, 16 *Foot* and a *half* make a *Perch*, *Pole* or *Rod*; but there are other Customary *Perches* or *Poles*, viz. 18 *Feet* for *Fens* and *Woodland*, 21 for *Forrest*, *Lancashire* and *Irish* Measure and $18\frac{3}{4}$ *Scotch*, 40 *Perch* make a *Furlong*, 8 *Furlong* or 320 *Perch* make an *English Mile*; which according to the Statute of 11 *H. VII.* ought to be 1760 *Yards*, 5280 *Foot*, that is 280 *Foot* more than the *Italian Mile*; 60 *Miles* (more exactly 69 *English Miles* and a *half*) make a *Degree*, and 360 such *Degrees*, or 24840 *Miles*, compass the whole *Globe* of the *Earth*.

Note, That the Measures of *Cloth* in *England* are as follow:

Kent, *York*, *Reading* *Cloths* 6 *quarters* and $\frac{1}{2}$ *broad*, 30 or 34 *yards* long, 86 *pound* weight.

Suffolk, *Norfolk*, *Essex*, 7 *quarters*, 29 *yards*, 80 *pound*.

Worcester, *Coventry*, *Hereford*, 6 *quarters* $\frac{1}{2}$ 30 or 33 *yards*, 78 *pound*.

Gloucester, *Oxon*, *Wilts*, *Somerset*, 7 *quarters*, 29 or 32 *yards*, 76 *pound*.

Suffolk Sorting, 6 *quarters*, 24 and 26 *yards*, 64 *pound*.

Broad and *narrow Yorkshires*, 4 *quarters*, 24 and 25 *yards*, 30 *pound*.

Taunton and *Bridgewater*, 7 *quarters*, 12 and 13 *yards*, 30 *pound*.

Devonshire *Kersies* and *Dozens*, 4 *quarters*, 12 and 13 *yards*, 13 *pound*.

Chequer Kersies, *Grays*, *strip'd* and *plain*, 4 *quarters*, 17 and 18 *yards*, 24 *pound*.

Penninstons or *Forrests*, 3 *quarters* and $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 and 13 *yards*, 28 *pound*.

Sorting Penninston, 6 *quarters* and $\frac{1}{2}$, 13 and 15 *yards*, 35 *pound*.

Washers of Lancashire, 17 and 18 *yards*, 17 *pound*.

Sack of Wool, 364 *pound*.

Tod 28 *pound*, to 1 *Sack* 13 *Tods*.

A *Nale* 7 *pound*.

1 Sack makes 4 Standard Cloaths, 24 yards long, 6½ wide, of 60 pound weight, call'd Sorting Cloaths.

Horses are measured by the Hand, which is 4 Inches.

For measuring of Land in *England*, 40 Perches in length and 4 in breadth, make an *Acre* of Land, (so called from the *German Word Acker*; and that from the *Latin Word Ager*) 30 *Acre*s ordinarily make a *Yard-Land*, and 100 *Acre*s are accounted an *Hide* of Land, and 640 *Acre*s a *Mile Square*.

A Table of Long Measure

6360	21120	7040	5280	3520	1760	1408	1056	880	320	8	Mile.
7920	2640	280	660	440	220	176	132	110	40	Furlong.	
198	66	82	16½	11	5½	4¾	1¾	2¾	Pole.		
72	24	8	6	4	2	1¾	1½	Fathom.			
60	20	6⅔	5	3⅓	1⅔	1¼	Pace.				
45	15	5	3¾	2½	1¼	Ell.					
36	12	4	3	2	1¼	Yard.					
18	6	2	1½	Cubit.							
12	4	1½	Foot.								
9	3	Span.									
3	Palm.										
Inch.											

But in this, and also in some Weights and Measures, the Custom of the Place is otherwise, which must be regarded. In *Franceabout Paris*, 12 Inches make a Foot; 22 Foot make a Perch; and 100 Perches make an Arpent.

A Table of Square Measure.

Miles	640	2560	102400	1115136	3097600			
	Acres	4	160	1742 4	4840	43560		
		Rood.	40	435 6	1210	10890	1568160	
			Pole	10 89	30 25	272 25	39204	
				Pace	2 77	25	600	
					Yard.	9	1296	
						Feet.	144	
							Inch.	

[NOTE: The symbol | is the equivalent to the modern decimal point]

Of Timber, 43 Foot solid make a Tun, and 50 Foot a Load.

Measura receptionis, Receptive measure is two fold; first, of liquid or moist things; secondly of dry things.

The ordinary smallest Receptive Measure is called a *Pint*; 2 Pints make a *Quart*; 2 Quarts make a *Pottle*; 2 Pottles make a *Gallon*, a Gallon of Beer, or the Measure containing 282 solid Inches; and holds of Rain-Water 10 Pounds, 3 Ounces $\frac{240}{1000}$ *Avoirdupois*; 8 Gallons a *Firkin* of Ale, 2 such Firkins make a *Kilderkin*; and 2 Kilderkins, or 32 Gallons make a *Barrel* of Ale; and 12 Barrels a *Last*; 9 Gallons a *Firkin* of Beer; 2 such Firkins, or 18 Gallons make a *Kilderkin*; 2 such Kilderkins, or 36 Gallons make a *Barrel* of Beer; one Barrel and a half, or 54 Gallons make a *Hogshead*; 2 Hogsheads make a *Pipe* or *Butt*; and 2 *Pipes* a *Tun*, consisting of 1728 Pints or Pounds: A Barrel of *Butter* or *Soap*, is the same with a Barrel of *Ale*.

The *English Wine* Measures are smaller than those of *Ale* and *Beer*, and hold proportions of about 4 to 5. So that 4 Gallons of Beer Measure are almost five Gallons of Wine Measure, and each Gallon of Wine is 231 Cubical Inches, 8 Pound, 1 Ounce, and 11 Drachms *Avoirdupois* of Rain-Water. Of these Gallons a *Runlet* of Wine holds 18. Half a *Hogshead* 31 Gallons and a half; a *Tierce* of Wine holds 42 Gallons, a *Hogshead* 63 Gallons; a *Punchion* 84 Gallons; a *Pipe* or *Butt* holds 126, and a *Tun* 252 Gallons or 2016 Pints.

<i>Pints.</i>						
1	<i>Gallons.</i>					
8	1	<i>Firkins.</i>				
64	8	1	<i>Kilderk.</i>			
128	16	2	1	<i>Barrel.</i>		
256	32	4	2	1	<i>Hogsh.</i>	
512	64	8	4	2	1	<i>Last.</i>
3072	384	48	24	12	6	1

Note, that Butter, Fish and Soap are sold by Ale Measure.

A Table of Beer Measure

<i>Pints.</i>						
8	<i>Gallon.</i>					
72	9	<i>Firkin.</i>				
144	18	2	<i>Kild.</i>			
288	36	4	2	<i>Barrel.</i>		
576	72	8	4	2	<i>Hogsheads.</i>	

A Table of Wine Measure.

A Tun of Wine weighing *Avoirdupois* 17 C. weight.

One Pint 1 l. o. ½ Ounces *Troy*.

<i>Pints.</i>									
8	<i>Gallons.</i>								
144	18	<i>Runlets.</i>							
252	31½	1	<i>Barrels.</i>						
336	42	2⅓	1⅓	<i>Tierce.</i>					
504	63	3½	2	1½	<i>Hogsheads.</i>				
672	84	4⅔	2⅔	2	1⅓	<i>Puntions.</i>			
1008	126	7	4	3	2	1½	<i>Buts.</i>		
2016	256	14	8	6	4	3	2	<i>Tuns.</i>	

The same for Honey, Oil, &c.

Note, That a *Rochel* Hogshead is but 46 Gallons; and an *High Country* Hogshead but 54 : A *Malaga* Butt or Pipe but 112 Gallons : A *Canary* Pipe but 116.

The received Disproportion in the Weights of Liquid is thus :

The *Amphora* of the *Romans* weighed of Wine or Rain - Water 50 *lb.* of *Antwerp* Weight.

Note that 112 *Pound* at *London* makes but 107⅝ at *Antwerp*.

	<i>Pounds.</i>
So that which contains of Wine or Rain - Water _____	50
Contains of River - Water _____	53
Of Oil or Butter _____	45
Of Linseed Oil _____	39
Of Honey _____	35
Of Quicksilver _____	850

To measure dry things, as Corn or Grain, there is first the *Gallon*, which is bigger than the Wine Gallon, and less than the Ale or Beer Gallon; containing 272¼ Cubit Inches, and 9 Pound, 13 Ounces, 12 Drachms and ½ of *Avoirdupois* weight. Two of these Gallons make a *Peck*, four *Pecksa* *Bushel*, four Bushels the *Comb* or *Curnock*, two Curnocks make a *Quarter*, *Seam* or *Raff*, and ten Quarters a *Last*, which contains 5120 Pints, and so many Pounds *Troy* weight; so that in a Garrison, 5000 Men, allowing each but a Pound of Bread *per diem*, will consume near a Last or 80 Bushels every day; and 250 Men in a Ship of War will drink a Tun of Beer in two Days, allowing each Man about a Pottle *per diem*.

A Table of Dry Measure

<i>Pints.</i>							
2	<i>Quarts.</i>						
4	2	<i>Pottles.</i>					
8	4	2	<i>Gallons.</i>				
16	8	4	2	<i>Pecks.</i>			
64	32	16	8	4	<i>Bushels.</i>		
512	256	128	64	32	8	<i>Quarters.</i>	
2560	1280	640	320	160	40	5	<i>Wey.</i>
5120	2560	1280	640	320	80	10	2 <i>Last.</i>

Meal is weighed as Corn, but the Common Repute is, that a Gallon of wheaten Meal weighs 7 pound *Avoirdupois*; and 8 pounds, 6 ounces, 4 penny-weight *Troy*; so a Bushel 56 pounds *Avoirdupois*; and 68 pounds 1 ounce, 12 penny-weight *Troy*. All other Grain, and so likewise Salt, lime, Coals, &c. follow this Measure, which is call'd *Winchester Measure*. But note, that where Sea-Coal and Salt are measured with this Bushel, then they are heaped, or else there is allowed five striked Pecks to the Bushel, and this is called *Water Measure*. 36 Bushels are a Chaldron of Coals; and on Shipboard they allow 21 Chaldron to the Score.

5

MONEY

At first all Nations bartered, and exchanged one Commodity for another, but that being found troublesom, by a kind of Custom, good liking, or Usage, amongst all civiliz'd Nations, Silver and Gold, as most portable, pliable, and beautiful, and less subject to rust, have been as early as the days of *Abraham*, chosen to be the Instruments of Exchange and Measure of all things, and were at first paid only by Weight, till in process of time, the way of *Coining* or *Stamping* Money was found out.

When *Julius Caesar* first entred this Island, the *Britains* used Brass Money, and also Rings of Iron instead of Money. And afterwards divers of their Kings and Queens coined Money of other Mettals, of all which there are several Specimens yet remaining in the Cabinets of the Curious. Not to mention the *Roman* Money, which by the great Quantities continually found, seems to have been of common Use.

In the time of King *Richard I.* Money coined in the *East* parts of *Germany*, being for its purity highly esteemed, some of those Easterlings were sent for over, and employed in

our Mint, and from thence our Money was called *Easterling*, or *Sterling* Money, as some think, (as the first Gold coin'd in *England*, was by King *Edward* III. and those pieces called *Florences*, because *Florentines* were the first Coiners thereof) though others say of the *Saxon* Word *Ster*, Rule or Standard, from *Steoran* to *steer*, guide, or govern; and a third opinion is, that it is so called from the Stars on the *Saxon* Groats, which therefore by our Ancestors were probably term'd *Steorlings*.

6

SILVER

King *Edward* I. since the *Norman* Conquest, established a certain Standard for Silver Coin in this manner: 24 Grains make one *Penny Sterling*, 20 penny-weight one *Ounce*, and 12 Ounces or 5660 Grains make a *Pound Sterling*, consisting of 20 *s*. Of these 12 Ounces, 11 Ounces two penny-weight of *Sterling* was to be of fine Silver, and the weight of 18 *d*. *Sterling* in Allay the Minter did add; so that anciently a *Pound Sterling* was a *Pound Troy* weight; whereas now a *Pound Sterling* is but the third part of a *Pound Troy*, and a little more than the fourth part of *Avoirdupois* Weight.

The Money of *England* was abused and falsified for a long time, till Queen *Elizabeth* in the Year 1560, to her great Praise called in all such Money, since which time no base Money hath been coined in the Mint of *England*, but only of pure Gold and Silver, called *Sterling Money*; only of latter time, in relation to the Necessity of the Poor, and Exchange of great Money, a small piece of Copper, called a *Farthing*, or Fourth part of a Penny, hath been permitted to be coined; and so likewise an Half-penny or piece of two Farthings; but no Man inforc'd to receive them in pay for Rent or Debt above a Shilling, which can't be affirm'd of any other State or Nation in the Christian World; in all which there are several sorts of Copper Money as currant with them for any Payment, as the purest Gold or Silver.

No Moneys in any Mint are made of pure Silver, because Silver in its Purity is almost as flexible as Lead, and therefore not so useful as when hardened with Copper.

Gold minted pure would also be too flexible, and therefore is in all Mints allayed with some Copper, or with Silver, and most Mints differ in more or less Allay.

In the time of the aforementioned King *Edward* I. the Coins were only 4 *d*. 3 *d*. 2 *d*. 1 *d*. the Half-penny and the Farthing, all of Silver.

The Pound weight *Troy* of Silver, since the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* hath been currant at 62 *s*. and the several Silver Coins now currant in *England*, are the Crown or 5 *s*. which is almost the Ounce *Troy*, the Half-Crown, Shilling, Sixpence, 4 *d*. 3 *d*. 2 *d*. and 1 *d*.

For the Coinage, there was allowed 2 *s*. in the pound *Troy* of Silver; so that the Merchant who brought in the Bullion, received only 60 *s*. for lb. each, which made

the Ounce to be just 5 s But by an Act of Parliament 1665, for encouragement of Coinage, the Charge of Coinage was defrayed by an Imposition on Brandy, and nothing payable by the bringer in of the Bullion; so that the Merchant receives 62 s for every pound *Troy* of Bullion.

The pound weight, or twelve Ounces *Troy* of Gold is divided into twenty four parts, which are called *Carrats*; so that each *Carratis* ten penny-weight *Troy*, or half an Ounce; and this *Carratis* divided into four parts, which are called *Carrat Grains*; so that the *Carrat Grainis* 2 d. weight and a half, or sixty ordinary Grains; and the *Carrat Grainis* divided into divers parts; the Standard of Crown Gold is twenty two *Carrats* of fine Gold, and two *Carrats* of Alloy in the pound weight *Troy*; the Alloy of some Gold Coins is all Silver, as the Guiney-Gold, and some all Copper, which renders the Gold Coins some more white, some more yellow.

In England at present the Pound weight troy of Gold is cut into forty four parts and a half, each part is to pass for 20 s. and the half part for 10 s. Yet now by the scarcity of Gold imported, each of the said parts is currant 1 l. 1 s. 6 d. There are also coined some pieces of 40 s. and some of 100 s. which holds proportionably in weight and fineness to the 20 s. piece.

The *English* Gold was coined at 44 l. 10 s. to the pound *Troy*, whereof 15 s. were taken by the King for his Seignorage, and Charge of Coinage; and the Merchant for a pound of Gold received but 43 l. 15 s. whereas he now receives by the said Act of Parliament 44 l. 10 s.

The Standard of Sterling Silver in *England* is eleven Ounces and 2 d. weight of fine Silver, and 18 d. weight of Alloy of Copper out of the fire, and so proportionably; so that twelve Ounces of pure Silver, without any Alloy is worth 3 l. 4 s. 6 d. and an Ounce is worth 5 l. 4 d. ob. but with Alloy is worth but 3 l. and the Ounce 5 s.

The *Spanish*, *French* and *Flemish* Gold is almost of equal fineness with the *English*.

The *English* Silver Money hath less of Alloy than the *French* or *Dutch*.

The Moneyers divide the Pound weight into twelve Ounces *Troy*.

The	{	Ounce Penny weight Grain Mite Droite Perit	}	into	{	20 Penny weight. 24 Grains. 20 Mites. 24 Droites. 20 Perits 24 Blanks.	}
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The Proportion of Gold to Silver in *England*, is as One to Fourteen, and about one Third; that is to say, one Ounce of Gold is worth in Silver fourteen Ounces, and about one Third, or 3 l. 14 s. 2 d. of *English* Money.

That the *English* Coin may want neither the Purity nor the Weight required, it was most wisely and carefully provided, That once every Year the Chief Officers of the *Mint* should appear before the Lords of the Council in the *Star-Chamber* at *Westminster* with some pieces of all sort of Money coined the foregoing Year, taken at adventure out of the *Mint*, and kept under several locks by several Persons, till that Appearance, and then by a Jury of Twenty four able Goldsmiths, in the presence of the said Lords, every piece is most exactly assay'd and weighed.

Since the happy Restauration of his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, the Coining and Stamping of Money by Hammers hath been laid aside, and all stamp'd by a Mill or Screw, whereby it comes to pass, that our New Coins for Neatness, Gracefulness and Security from Counterfeiting, do surpass all the most Excellent Coins not only of the *Romans*, but of all the Modern Nations of the World.

But we must not on this Subject forget that since the late happy Revolution, the Silver Coin of this Kingdom was so miserably debas'd by Clipping, that it was a prejudice to all Trade, and indeed a Scandal to the Nation. And had it been much longer permitted, we should have lost the true valuation of Goods, and the proper use of Money: Upon which many Projects were contriv'd to remedy that abominable Mischief. But none could have been effectual without calling in all the old current Stock, and coining all into new *Mill'd* Money; which compleat Reformation was made at such a Juncture of Difficulties, under which the Publick then labour'd, that this great Expedient and absolute Success of it, must be an eternal Honour to that Parliament that ordain'd it, and to those particular members who did continue and sollicite such a Work of Interest and Honour to this Age, and to succeeding Generations.



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