CONCERNING the life of William Wood it is a difficult matter to write at all fully or at length, owing to the very few contemporary notices which have come down to us, and this must occasion no little surprise when we bear in mind the somewhat important position which Wood occupied upon the political stage of his time.

William Wood was born on July the 31st, 1671, and though nothing is known of his early life we learn that he resided at the Deanery, Wolverhampton, during the period from 1692 to 1713. Even previously to his entrance into the field of numismatics he was a person of considerable importance, for we are told that not only was he possessed of iron and copper mines in the West of England, but he was also the lessee of mineral rights in thirty-nine Welsh and English counties, and remembering that he was able to purchase his patent for the sum of £10,000, we are forced to consider him as being very different from the portrait which Swift has given to us.

In the year 1722, the King’s mistress, the Duchess of Kendal, obtained from the Earl of Sunderland a patent for the coinage of copper money for the Kingdom of Ireland, which privilege she sold for £10,000 to William Wood. For further details of Wood’s coinage for Ireland, the reader is referred to the author’s “Coinage of Ireland in Copper, Tin and Pewter.”

1 See page 201 et seq.
On July 12th of the same year, 1722, Wood also received a patent empowering him to strike and issue coins for "the Plantations," as the North American colonies were then named. This right was for a period of fourteen years, the quantity to be issued being limited to 300 tons, of which 200 tons were to be struck during the first four years, and an amount not exceeding ten tons per annum in the ten years succeeding. For this privilege Wood was to pay a yearly rent to the Crown of £100, and to the Clerk Comptroller £200.¹

These American coins are familiar to us by the name of "Rosa Americana," and were struck from a material known as Bath metal, the composition of which was as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>1 dwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutanaigne</td>
<td>4 ozt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass</td>
<td>15 ozt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 ozt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From this quantity were to be struck either thirty-six twopenny pieces, seventy-two pence, or one hundred and forty-four halfpence, which coins are proportionately about half the weight of the corresponding English halfpence and farthings of the time. The *Rosa Americana* were issued during the period 1722–1733, the dies being prepared by the following engravers, Harold, Lammas and Standbroke, who were also the artists for the Irish issues.

With Wood there were associated in this undertaking, Kingsmill Eyres, described as an esquire, and a hardware-man of Cornhill, named Marsland, the latter of whom, it is stated, "had a cellar full of these pieces," and as the difficulty of passing them into currency was almost as insuperable as was that with the Irish series, it need occasion no surprise to learn that Marsland was by this means ruined. Shortly afterwards he died, an inmate of Gresham College.

The dies for some of these American pieces were removed by Winthorpe to New York when he emigrated to that city. The mints at which these coins were made were situated at London and Bristol,

¹ For this patent *in extenso* see page 276.
as will be apparent from the subjoined extracts from contemporary papers. The following announcement occurs in *The London Post* for January the 14th, 1723:

"William Wood of Wolverhampton Esq., having a patent for fourteen years, for coining farthings and halfpence for Ireland, and halfpence, pence and twopence for all His Majesty's dominions in America, hath erected a building in Phoenix Street, Brown's Gardens, near the Seven Dials, for the American coinage and another in the city of Bristol for the Irish coinage."

In the same journal for January the 18th, 1723, appears this further statement, which was also in the *St. James's Journal* for January the 19th:

Wood began his coinage for Ireland on Monday last near the Seven Dials. In about a week's time he will begin to coin at Bristol pieces for America, which will be made of a beautiful compound metal."

Wood no doubt selected Bristol as his mint owing to the fact that at this time, 1723, it was the centre of the brass trade and possessed the largest copper smelting works in England; it was also the principal port for trade with the Plantations, and conveniently situated for the export of the coins to America.

We may recognise as brass the "beautiful compound metal" spoken of by *The London Post*. The blanks for these coins were heated prior to being struck by the die, which was elevated to some height and then allowed to descend, and this no doubt accounts for the many specimens which appear blistered, as though they had been subjected to the action of fire.

Doubtless the somewhat unusual material of which these pieces were made, accounts for the few specimens which have come down to us in a fine state of preservation, the soft metal not being calculated to resist the wear and tear of time and circulation.

The following letter to the Governor of New Hampshire, dated October the 29th, 1725, is interesting, as showing the difficulty attending the passing of this issue into circulation.
"Whitehall, 29th Oct., 1725.

"Sir,

"His Majesty having been pleased to grant to Mr. William Wood his letters Patents for the Coyning of Halfpence, Pence and two Pences of the Value of Money of Great Britain for the Use of His Majesty's Dominions in America which said Coyn is to receive such additional value as shall be reasonable and agreeable to the customary allowance of Exchange in the several parts of these His Majesty's Dominions as you will see more at large by a Copy of the Patent, which will be laid before you by the person that delivers this letter to you; I am to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure that, in pursuance of a Clause in the said Patent by which all his Majesty's Officers are to be aiding and assisting to Mr. Wood in the due Execution of what is therein directed and in the legal Exercise of the several Powers and Enjoyment of the Privileges and Advantages thereby granted to him, you give him all due Encouragement and Assistance, and that you and all such other of His Majesty's Officers there, whom it may concern, do readily perform all legal Acts, that may be requisite for that purpose. This I am particularly to recommend to your Care; and to desire your Protection to Mr. Wood and to those he shall employ to transact this affair in the Provinces under your Government.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most humble Servant,

"Holles Newcastle."

Among other items which have come down to us is the statement that William Wood was the first to use pit coal for the manufacture of iron, which had up to this time been prepared with charcoal, and it is not unlikely that the specimens of the obverse of the 1733 *Rosa Americana* twpence struck in steel, were issued to prove the excellence of the metal produced by this new means.

Wood, in consideration of receiving a yearly pension of £3,000 for eight years, surrendered his patent for the Irish coinage in 1725, but he appears to have retained the right of coining pieces for the American Colonies, and the twpence of 1733 referred to above, though subsequent to Wood's decease, which occurred on August the 2nd, 1730, was without doubt executed by his successors to the privilege of the patent.
The body of William Wood was removed from London for interment at Wolverhampton, August, 1730.

On June the 21st, 1728, William Wood communicated to the Board of Trade a proposal to remedy the evils arising from "the issuing of paper money and the rating of coin." His proposal was to strike a Colonial coinage (to be stamped AMERICA) repeating the several British coins, both of gold, and of silver, but "one forth less in value," i.e., following the lines of the Proclamation and Act of Queen Anne. These coins were to pass by tale, and to be kept in the Colonies by various devices which Wood suggested. Nothing, however, came of his interested proposal.¹

The *Rosa Americana* coins are of three denominations, viz., twopenny pieces, pence, and halfpence, though as previously mentioned they were of but half the intrinsic value of the English coinage of this period.

It is always an interesting study in numismatics to endeavour to trace the origin of the type of a coinage which is in any way unusual to its period, as this series undoubtedly was. The result of the writer's research in this instance suggests that we may discover the prototype of the *Rosa Americana* issues in the following pattern piece of Elizabeth, from which the design for the American coinage would appear to be derived.

**FIG. 1.**

**Pattern Penny of Elizabeth Without Date.**

*Obverse.*—: ROSA. SINE. SPINA. :, surrounding a crowned rose within a dotted circle.

*Reverse.*—PRO • LEGE • REGE ET • GREGE, surrounding a shield bearing the cross of St. George. Mint mark, a cross, Weight, 28 grs. Fig. 1.

¹ Colonial Currency, Chalmers, p. 17.
In the early issues of the American series, we find the rose alone, in the second the rose crowned, whilst in the coin presently described under No. 22, we have the rose together with the legend ROSA SINE SPINA in full. The first piece struck was a twopenny piece without date and without label, which on account of its extreme rarity may be a pattern.

No. 1. PATTERN TWOPENCE. WITHOUT DATE.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · D: G: MAG: BRI: FRA: ET. HIB: REX.
A large laureated head of George I. to right, with flowing curls on the side of the neck, and a single tie to the wreath.

Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · in large letters above a large seeded rose; beneath, UTILE · DULCI · Weight, 193 grs. Plate, No. 1.

This piece was followed by a coin, No. 2, identical in regard to the reverse, but from an obverse die of better execution, and similar to the coin next to be described but without a period after the word REX. Weight, 214 grs.

This coin, which appears to be a mule between the first and second issues, is excessively rare, only two examples being known.

No. 3. TWOPENCE. WITHOUT DATE.


Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · above a seeded rose; beneath, on the label, UTILE · DULCI · Weight, 244 grs. Plate, No. 2.

Following this would appear a penny dated 1722, which in the use of V’s for U’s both upon the obverse and reverse, seems to have been struck before the other pence of the same year.

No. 4. PENNY, 1722.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.

Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 155 grs. Plate, No. 4.
This coin is struck upon a large copper flan, and being extremely rare is probably a pattern.

Following the previous coin and exactly similar as regards the reverse, we have

No. 5. PENNY, 1722.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 147 grs. Plate, No. 5.

and also a halfpenny, though the reverse reading is contracted.

No. 6. HALFPENNY, 1722.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 64 grs. Plate, No. 10.

This coin is also extremely rare and probably only a pattern. A very similar halfpenny exists, with the legends contracted on both obverse and reverse.

No. 7. HALFPENNY, 1722.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 62 grs. Plate, No. 9.

The following five coins would probably be struck in the order they are here placed.
No. 8. TWOPENCE, 1722.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · D · G · MAG · BRI · FRA · ET · HIB · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · 1722 · above a seeded rose, beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI · Weight, 213 grs. Plate, No. 3, also Fig. 2.

No. 9. PENNY, 1722.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 122 grs. Plate, No. 6.

No. 10. PENNY, 1722.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 126 grs. Plate, No. 7.

No. 11. HALFPENNY, 1722.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 70 grs. Plate, No. 11-12.

No. 12. PENNY, 1722.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1722 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 125 grs. Plate, No. 8.

In the following year, 1723, it was no doubt the intention to repeat the existing design with the mere change of the terminal figure of the date. Of this, evidence is forthcoming in the pattern halfpenny next described.

No. 13. PATTERN HALFPENNY, 1723.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · UTILE · DULCI · 1723 · surrounding a seeded rose. Weight, 62 grs. Plate, No. 13.
The issue was, however, abandoned in favour of the handsomer coins bearing the rose beneath a crown. This issue consists of coins of three denominations, viz., twopence, penny and halfpenny.


Obverse.—GEORGIUS · D · G · MAG · BRI · FRA · ET · HIB · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · J723 above a seeded rose beneath a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI Weight, 240 grs. Plate, No. 16.

No. 15. PENNY, 1723.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · J723 above a seeded rose beneath a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI Weight, 128 grs.

No. 16. HALFPENNY, 1723.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · J723 above a seeded rose beneath a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI Weight, 66 grs. Plate, No. 14.

A silver proof is known of the above halfpenny.

No. 17. PATTERN HALFPENNY, 1723.

Obverse.—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I to right.
Reverse.—ROSA · AMERICANA · J723 above a large seeded rose beneath a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI Weight, 70 grs. Plate, No. 15.

This piece, which is struck in silver, is in the cabinet of the author and is probably unique.
No. 18. Pattern Twopence, 1724.

Obv.: GEORGIUS · D · G · MA · B · FRA · ET · HIB · REX · Fine laureated bust of George I. to right with flowing hair curling beneath the truncation.

Rev.: ROSA · AMERICANA · 1724 · above a seeded rose surrounded by a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI · Weight, 200 grs. Fig. 3.

Of this beautiful example of medallion art but three examples are known, the one illustrated is in the collection of Mr. J. B. Caldecott.

A silver proof of the above coin, weighing 245 grs., was in the Murdoch collection and was illustrated in the sale catalogue of the Colonial Section No. 438. On the obverse beneath the bust are engraved the initials W.W., whilst on the reverse, to the left of the rose, is engraved, VIII JVNE. These initials suggest the possibility that this unique coin may once have been the property of William Wood.

No. 19. Pattern Twopence, 1724.

Obv.: GEORGIUS · D · G · M · B · FRA · ET · HIB · REX · Similar to the preceding coin except for the variation in the legend.

Rev.: Similar to the above, but no period after DULCI. Weight 150 grs. Plate, No. 18.

No. 20. Pattern Penny, 1724.

Obv.: GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right.

Rev.: ROSA · AMERICANA · 1724 · above a seeded rose beneath a crown; below, on a label, UTILE · DULCI · Weight, 120 grs. Plate, No. 5 obv., 17 rev.
There exists a silver proof of the above penny, the date 1724 being officially altered from 1723.

The next coin struck was a pattern penny very similar in design to Nos. 18 and 19.

**No. 21. Pattern Penny, 1724.**

*Obverse.*—GEORGIUS · D · GRATIA · REX · Laureated head of George I. to right with flowing curls.

*Reverse.*—ROSA : AMERICANA · 1724 above a seeded rose beneath a crown; beneath, on a label, UTILE · DULCI. Weight, 93 grs. Plate, No. 17.

A curious mule is known of the penny size, the obverse being from the obverse of the twopenny-die of 1724, the reverse from the reverse of the halfpenny-die of the year 1723. This piece is in the cabinet of the author.

After this follows a piece which although it is undated, must be of this year, for the obverse is the same as that of the Irish pattern halfpenny of 1724.

**Fig. 4.**

**No. 22. Pattern Penny Undated.**

*Obverse.*—GEORGIUS · DEI · GRATIA · REX. Fine laureated bust of George I. to right, with flowing hair curling beneath the prominent truncation of the neck. Fig. 4.

*Reverse.*—ROSA : SINE : SPINA. A leafy sprig springing from the ground bearing three roses and two rose buds. Weight, 127 grs. Plate, No. 20.

Only three examples of this rare piece are now known.

The reverse of this piece is also found united with another obverse, which is as follows: WILHELMINA : CHARLOTTA.
The Coinage of William Wood for PR. WALLIA. Draped bust of the Princess to left. This medalet occurs in the author's cabinet in Bath metal, whilst the example in the National Collection is struck in white metal. Both varieties are of extreme rarity and were probably issued about 1724.

As William Wood died in 1730 the coin described below was, as previously remarked, probably issued by his successors to the patent for this coinage. There now remain to us only two complete examples of it struck in Bath metal, but another specimen was lost on its way to America owing to the wreck of the ship Arctic.

No. 23. Pattern Two Pence, 1733.
Obverse.—GEORGIUS II. D. G. REX. Laureated head of George II. to left.
Reverse.—ROSA = AMERICANA = 1733 = above a branch bearing beneath a crown, a full-blown rose, a bud and seven leaves; beneath, on a label, UTILE = DULCI. Weight, 290 grs. Plate, No. 19.

There occur also six examples of the obverse of this piece struck in steel, one such specimen is in the author's cabinet; and on the reverse of another is engraved HAWKINS weight, 292 grs.

WILLIAM WOOD'S PATENT OF 12TH JULY, 1722.
The following is the full text of Wood's Patent:

Wm Wood This Indenture made the day of
Ar' in the year of the Reign of our Sovereign
Grant Lord George by the Grace of God of Great Britain
ffrance and Ireland king Defender of the faith &c Annoq Dii one thousand seven hundred twenty two Between our said Sovereign Lord the king of the one part and William Wood of Wolverhampton in the County of Stafford Esquire of the other part Whereas our said Sovereign lord hath received Information that Within his Majesties Islands Dominions and Territories in America there is a great Want of small money for making small payments to such as would voluntarily accept the same and that Retailers and others do suffer by reason of such Want and Whereas the said William Wood hath
humbly represented to his Majestie that he the said William Wood hath Invented a Composicion or mixture consisting partly of fine virgin Silver partly of superfine Brass made of pure Copper and partly of double refined linck otherwise called Tutanaigne or Spelter so that a mass or peice of fine metal made of such mixture or Composicion and weighing Twenty ounces Averdupoiz doth contain one penny weight Troy of fine virgin Silver fifteen Ounces Averdupoiz of fine Brass and the Remainder of the said peice of Twenty ounces Averdupoiz is made of the said double refined linck otherwise called Tutanaigne or Spelter A Standard peice whereof weighing Twenty Ounces Averdupoiz hath been humbly presented to his Majesty by the said William Wood in Order to be delivered to the Comptoller or king's clerk to be appointed as hereinafter mencioned for trying the fine metal to be made for coynage of such moneys hereinafter prescribed and the small moneys to be made with the same metal. And the said William Wood hath humbly proposed to his Majestie upon the Terms and Condiçons herein after expressed to make small moneys of such Composicion or Mixture as aforesaid for the Service of his Majesties Subjects in America who will voluntarily accept the same as aforesaid. Now this Indenture Witnesseth That our said Sovereign Lord by virtue of his Prerogative Royal and of his Speciall Grace certain knowledge and meer moçoñ and in Consideraçõn of the Rents Covenants and agreements hereinafter contained and expressed on the part and behalfe of the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes to be paid done observed and performed hath given and Granted and by these presents for himselfe his heirs and Successors Doth Give and Grant unto the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes full free sole and absolute power Priviledge lycence and Authority That he the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes by himselfe or themselves or by his or their Servants Workmen and Assignes (and no other Person or Persons whatsoever) shall and may from time to time during the Term of fourteen yeares to be reckoned and accounted from the feast of the Annunciaçõn of the Blessed Virgin Mary one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two Coyne or make and caused to be Coyned or made at his and their own proper Costs and Charges at some publick and convenient Office Within his Majesties City of London or the Suburbs of the same or such other place as shall be approved by the Comissioners of his Majesties Treasury or high Treasurer for the time being to be Provided from time to time by him the same William Wood his Executors Administrators or Assignes any Number or Quantity of Tokens or peices of such mixt metal or Composicion as is before described to go for half pence pence and Two pences and to be
from time to time after the coining thereof transported or carried into his Majesties Islands Dominions and Territories in America or some of them and may be uttered or dispersed there and not elsewhere Provided always that every such Office for Coynyng such halfpence pence and Two pences (before any such coyning therein) shall be Notified by the said William Wood his Executors Administrators or Assigns in the London Gazette and by a Writing to be openly affixed upon the Royal Exchange in London Provided also that the Whole Number or Quantity to be Coynyng by virtue of such his Majesties letters Patent do not exceed in the said Whole Term the Quantity to be made of Three hundred Tunns of such mixt metal or Compositiōn as before described Provided likewise that the Number or Quantity (part of the said whole Quantity) do not exceed in the first four years of the said Term the Quantity to be made of Two hundred Tunns of such mixt Metal or Compositiōn as aforesaid and do not exceed for any one year for the last Ten years of the said Term the Quantity to be made of Ten Tons of the said mixt Metal or Compositiōn And so as all the mixt Metal or Compositiōn of Which the said half pence pence and two pences shall be made do consist of such Ingredients and in such Proportions as are above described and so as all the said halfpence and two pences be of such size and bigness That Twenty ounces Averdupoiz Weight of such mixt Metal or Compositiōn shall not be converted into more half pence pence or two pences than shall make sixty pence by tale and so as all the said half pence Pence and Two pences be made of equal Weight in themselves or as near thereunto as may be being allowed a Remedy not exceeding one penny over or under in each Weight of them holding Twenty Ounces Averdupoiz And so as the said Metal or Compositiōn for making the said half pence pence and Two pences be from time to time before the making thereof assayed and so as the half pence pence and Two pences be made therewith from time to time before the uttering the Coyned half pence pence and Two pences from such Office be assayed and tried for their Weight and fineness and an Account be taken of the Tale in the manner hereinafter prescribed And that he the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assigns shall and may at his and their own Wills and pleasures from time to time during the said Term after the said half pence pence and two pences shall have been so assayed and tried for their Weight and fineness and an Account taken of their Tale as aforesaid Transport and Convey or cause the same to be transported and Conveyed unto the said Islands Dominions or Territories belonging or to belong to his Majestie his heirs or successors in America or any of them and shall and may utter and disperse them to his and their best advantage and profit to pass
and be received as Current money by such as shall be willing to receive the same within the said Islands Dominions and Territories or any of them and not elsewhere. And the said William Wood for himself his Executors Administrators and Assignes doth covenant promise and grant to and with our said Sovereign lord his heires and successors by these presents That he the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes shall and will make the said half pence pence and two pences of such fine metal or Composicion as aforesaid when the same shall be cast into Barrs or fillets and which when heated red hot will spread thin under the hammer without cracking and shall and will out of the same Coyn the said two pences pence and half pence of such a bigness that thirty two pences sixty pence and one hundred and twenty half pence may weigh sixteen ounces Averdupoiz being allowed a Remedy as aforesaid and shall and will when any quantity of such money shall be coyned permit and suffer such person or persons as the commissioners of the Treasury of his Majesty his heires and successors for the time being shall in Writing under their or his hands or hand from time to time or at any time or times constitute and appoint to mix the same in an heap and to assay the same by counting out thirty two pences sixty pence or one hundred and twenty half pence and there by to estimate the value of the whole heap and of every part thereof according to its weight and shall and will permit and suffer such person or persons to be appointed to assay such half pence and two pences in fineness by taking some pieces of the money heating them red hot and battering them to see if they will spread thin under the hammer and shall and will permit and suffer such person or persons as the said commissioners of the Treasury or the high Treasurer for the time being shall by any warrant or warrants from time to time constitute and appoint to see the said mixed metal or Composicion in Barrs or fillets for making the said money from time to time and to keep an account of the several parcels thereof and shall and will permit and suffer such person or persons to see the Assays performed and the money weighed and to take one or more pieces out of every parcel of money assayed to be kept in a Box under his or their key and a key of the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes to be tried annually in weight and fineness before whom the said commissioners of the Treasury or the high Treasurer for the time being shall appoint and it is hereby declared and agreed that the person or persons to be appointed as aforesaid for assaying or trying the said mixed metal or Composicion and the small moneys to be made thereof and taking the Tale of such monies shall be and be called the King's Clerk and
Comptroller of the Coynage of the halfe pence pence and two pences to be Coyned for the Service of the Islands Dominions and Territories belonging or to belong to his Majestie his heirs or Successors in America and may be impowered to Execute such Trust by himself or themselves his or their sufficient Deputy or Deputies from time to time And the said William Wood for himself his Executors Administrators and Assignes Doth hereby Covenant and agree at his and their own proper Costs and Charges to allow and pay to such Comptroller for the time being a Salary after the rate of Two hundred pounds per Annum to be paid Quarterly at the four usual feasts in the year by equal porçons during his continuance in the said Trust and to be Computed and paid by the day for any broken part of a Quarter in Which such Deputy or Deputies shall execute the same Trust Provided nevertheless That in Case the said Commissioners of the Treasury or the high Treasurer for the time being shall not constitute and appoint a Person or Persons to Assay and take Account of the said mixt Metal or Composicion or of the small monies to be made therewith as aforesaid or in case of the Death of such Person or Persons that shall be appointed The said William Wood his Executors Administrators or Assignes shall not be molested hindered or deprived of the benefit of making and coyning the said half pence and Two pences but shall and may proceed therein in manner aforesaid So as the said William Wood his Executors Administrators or Assignes or his or their Agent or Agents make Oath if required of the Quantity and Goodness of the said half pence pence and Two pences and of the Metal or Composicion whereof the same shall have been made And it is his Majesties will and pleasure And he doth by these presents for himself his heires and Successors Grant and Authorize and appoint That the said halfe pence pence and Two pences of such mixt metal or Composicion as aforesaid shall and may be made and Coyned with Engines or Instruments having on the one side the Effigies or Portraiture With the name or Title of his Majestie his heires or Successors and on the other side the figure of a Crown With the Word America and the year of our lord and any other marks or Additions as may be proper or the said Engines or Instruments for Coyning the said half pence pence and Two pences may have any other Inscriptions as by any Warrant or Warrants to be obtained under the Royal Sign Manual of his Majestie his heires or Successors shall be allowed and approved And that the said half pence and Two pences being made and coyned as aforesaid shall pass and be Generally vsed between Man and Man or between any persons that shall and will voluntarly and willingly and not otherwise pay and receive the same as Tokens or peices of and for the respective values
of half pence pence and Two pences of money of Great Britain With the customary allowance for Exchange within the said Islands Dominions and Territories belonging or to belong to his Majestie his heires or Successors in America or any of them and not elsewhere And to the intent the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes may have and obtain the full benefit and profit intended vnto him and them by this present Grant his Majestie doth by these presents for himselfe his heires and Successors strictly prohibit and forbid all and every person and persons Whatsoever (other than the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes and his and their Servants Workmen and Assignes before mentioned) to make Coyne or Counterfeit such half pence Pence or Two pences of such mixt Metal or Composicion as aforesaid or of any other Metal or Composicion Whatsoever or to make or vse any Engines or Instruments for the making of any Two pences Pence or half pence pence to pass or go within his Majesties said Islands Dominions and Territories or any of them or to Import or bring into the said Islands Dominions or Territories or any of them from any his Majesties Dominions or from any ffforeign parts to be vttered vended or dispersed in the said Island Dominions and Territories or any of them any Two pences Pence or half pence or any Engines or Instruments for making of the same at any time or times during the said Term of fourteen yeares vnder pain of incurring his Majesties Displeasure and such Corporal Pecuniary or other Punishments as by law may be inflicted upon any such Person or Persons in such Case or Cases Offending And his Majestie doth by these presents for himselfe his heires and Successor Give and Grant unto the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes full power and Authority so far as his Majestic can lawfully Grant That the said William Wood his Executors Administrators or Assignes by himselfe or themselves or by his or their Deputy or Deputies for Whom he or they will be Answerable from time to time and at all times during the said Term Granted (taking a Constable or other Officer to his or their Assistance) and in the Day time shall or may enter into any Ship vessell house or other place Within the said Islands Dominions and Territories belonging or to belong to his Majestie his heires or Successors in America Where he or they may reasonably suspect that any Counterfeit half pence pence or Two pences are or shall be made or are or shall be brought or imported from any other of his Majesties Dominions or from any ffforeign parts and by all lawfull Ways and means to search for the same and vpon finding of any such Counterfeit half pence pence or Two pences or any Tools or Instruments for making thereof to Arrest seize carry away detain and keep such
The Coinage of William Wood for Counterfeit half pence Pence and Two pences Instruments and Tools to the proper use and behoofe of him the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes Without any Account to be therefore rendered to his Majestic his heires or Successors for the same To have hold Exercise and Enjoy all and Singular the aforesaid Powers liberties privileges licences Grants Authorities and other the premisses vnto the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary one thousand seven hundred Twenty two unto the full end and Term of fourteen yeares from thence next Ensueing and fully to be compleat and ended yelding and paying therefore And the said William Wood for himself his Executors Administrators and Assignes doth hereby Covenant promise and Grant to and with his Majestie his heires and Successors at the Receipt of the Exchequer of his Majestie his heires and Successors the yearly Rent or Sume of one hundred pounds (over and above the Comptrollers Salary before menéoned) at two of the most usual feast or days of payment in the year that is to say at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by even and equal Poréons The first payment thereof to begin and be made at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next ensueing the date hereof Provided always and these presents are and shall be vpon this express Condiéon That if it shall happen that the said yearly Rent or Sume of one hundred pounds to be behind and unpayed in part or in the Whole by the space of Thirty days after any of the said feasts or Days of payment on which the same ought to be paid as aforesaid That then and from thenceforth it shall and may be lawfull to and for his Majestie his heires and Successors by any Instrument vnnder his or their Royall Signe Manual to revoke determine and make void these presents and all and every the Powers benefits and Advantages thereby Granted to the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding And further his Majestie for the Consideraéons aforesaid hath Given and Granted And by these presents for himself his heires and Successors of his more Special Grace certain knowledge and meer mocéon Doth Give and Grant vnto the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes all such Profit Gains benefit Benefits Emoluments and Advantages as shall from time to time be made gotten obtained or raised by the making Issuing uttering or vending of the said half pence Pence and Two pences which during the said Term of fourteen years are hereby authorized to be made transported vtted vnder and dispersed as aforesaid The same to be had taken and received by him the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes to
his and their only use and behoof Without any account or other matter or thing (other than the said yearly Sum of one hundred pounds to be therefore rendered to his Majesty his heires or Successors and other than the said Salary to be paid to the said Comptroller as aforesaid) And the said William Wood for himself his Executors Administrators and Assignes doth Covenant promise and Grant to and with his Majestie his heires and Successors by these presents That he the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes shall and will at his and their own proper costs and Charges from time to time during the said Term in pursuance of the Powers Granted to him and them as aforesaid make and Coyn or Cause to be made and Coyned and Transported into the said Islands Dominions and Territories belonging or to belong to his Majestie his heires or Successors in America or some of them and to be vittered and vended there as aforesaid at or under the respective values as aforesaid such and so many Two pences pence and half pence of such mixt metal or Composición as aforesaid of the goodness and bigness and of the form before mencioned as shall be sufficient for the use and accommodation of the Subjects of his Majestie his heires and Successors in those parts in and for the Change of their small moneys and in relación as their retailing Trade and other Commerce and business in Which the Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain there shall or may have occasion to use them But not to exceed in any one year the Quantities before mencioned And further That the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes shall and will from time to time in the making the said Two pences Pence and half pence in England and in Transporting the same from time to time to the said Islands Dominions or Territories in America or any of them and in vittering vending disposing or dispersing the same there and in all his and their Doings Accounts concerning the same submit himselfe and themselves to the Inspección Examinación Order and Comptroll of his Majestie his heires and Successors and of his and their Commissioners of the Treasury and high Treasurer for the time being and of such Person or Persons as shall be appointed as afore said And our said Sovereign lord for himselfe his heires and Successors doth hereby Covenant promise and Grant to and with the said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes That he said William Wood his Executors Administrators and Assignes paying the Rent and performing the Covenants herein reserved and contained on his and their part and behalf to be paid done and performed shall and may peaceably and quietly have hold and enjoy all the Powers Authorities Priviledges lycences Profits and Advantages and all other matters and things hereby Granted and every part thereof for and during the said
term of fourteen years, without any let, suit, trouble, molestation, or denial of his Majesty his heirs or successors or of or by any of his Majesties or their officers or ministers or any person or persons claiming or to claim any lawful power or right by from or under his Majesty his heirs or successors. Provided always that if the said William Wood within six months after the making hereof doth not give good and sufficient security to his Majesty his heirs or successors for the payment of the said yearly rent hereby reserved and for the performance of all the covenants, clauses and agreements herein contained on his and their parts and behoof to be done and performed (which security is to be such as the Commissioners of the Treasury or any three or more of them or the high Treasurer for the time being of his Majesty his heirs or successors shall approve) then all and every the grants hereby made to the said William Wood his Executors, Administrators and Assigns shall cease determine and be utterly void any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. And his Majesty doth hereby for himself his heirs and successors will require and covenant all and every the Governors, Deputy Governors and all the persons who are or shall be entrusted with the care or administration of the Government in all and every or any of the said islands, dominions or territories belonging or to belong to his Majesties his heirs or successors in America and all judges, justices and other officers and ministers whatsoever of his Majestie his heirs or successors in Great Britain or in the said islands, dominions or territories in America or elsewhere to be aiding and assisting to the said William Wood his Executors and Assigns in the execution of all or any of the powers, authorities, directions, matters and things to be executed by him or them or for his or their benefit and advantage by virtue or in pursuance of these presents in all things as becometh. In witness &c whereof our selfe at Westminster the Twelth day of July.

By Writt of Privy Seal”.

In addition to the patent we find a paper entitled

“Mr Wood Lycence.

“A Lycence unto William Wood of Wolverhampton in the county of Stafford Esqrs his Executors, Administrators and Assigns to coyn or make at his and their own proper costs and charges at some publick Office within the city of London or Suberbs thereof or such other place as shall be approved by his Majesties Commissioners of the Treasury or high Trearer for the time being to be provided from time to time.
by the Said William Wood his Ext's Admr's or Assigns any Number or Quantity of Tokens or Pieces of a certain Mixt Metall or Composition as in the Bill Described to go for halfe-pence, Pence, and Two pences to be from time to time after the Coyning thereof Transported or Carried into His Maj'ties Islands Dominions and Territories in America or Some of them, and to be uttered and Dispersed there, and not else where during the Term of Fourteen years to Commence from Lady Day 1722 Under the Yearly Rent of £100 and paying a Yearly Sallary of £200 to His Maj'ties Comptroller during the Said Term Provided that every Such Office for Coyning Such halfe-pence Pence and Twopences (before any Such Coyning) be Notified by the Said William Wood his Ext's Admr's or Assigns in the London Gazette and by a Writing to be openly affixed upon the Royal Exchange in London. And also that the whole Number or Quantity to be Coyned by Virtue of this His Maj'ties Lycence do not exceed in the said whole Term the Quantity to be made of 300 Tons of the said mixt metal or composition and such other Provisoes et in Oibus ut ante."
THE SPANISH DOLLAR FOR THE WEST INDIES  PL. I.