HAVE endeavoured to bring together in the following pages such historical evidence as is available concerning Queen Mary's coinage, both before and after her marriage with Philip of Spain, dealing first with England and afterwards with Ireland.

When Mary succeeded her half-brother, Edward VI., on July 6th, 1553, she was confronted with many difficulties, political, religious, and social, but once seated firmly on the throne she soon gave attention to the currency which had been left in a state of transition owing to the early death of her predecessor.

It is to be observed at the outset that Mary either closed or did not reopen the country mints which had been working in the previous reign, a course which may have been due to the laxities which had prevailed at some of the subsidiary establishments, or perhaps to the fact that the limited quantities of her money were not beyond the productive capacity of the central mint at the Tower.

The documents from which extracts will now be made were for the most part unknown to or not mentioned by Ruding or the Editor of the third edition of his Annals, and as the later numismatic books do not treat the subject from quite the same point of view it may be desirable to place on record this supplementary information.

The extracts have been arranged in chronological order, and the original phraseology has been retained as far as possible.

ENGLAND.

I. The queen, about six weeks after her accession, took the first public step in relation to the monetary system by issuing a proclamation
The Coinage of Queen Mary Tudor, 1553–1558;

dated August 20th, 1553 (Harl. MSS. 660), in which she declared her intention of providing "coynes as well of gold as of silver of the perfect fineness" and of the "standard sterling," which coins were to be current within her realms and dominions, except in Ireland, where a special standard was used. This proclamation, being in effect an epitome of the longer private deed which next follows, need not be further cited.

II. This indenture, or agreement, which bears the same date as document No. I is of some importance in that it forms the basis of Mary's English coinage, and sets out the duties of the officers of her mint. The deed is also of interest from the fact that it had not been seen by Ruding or by the majority of the earlier writers, although its existence was apparently known to them. The unfortunate omission to enroll this indenture upon the Close Rolls in accordance with the general practice at other periods, and the difficulty of access to the original parchment, which was then stored in the Chapter House at Westminster, afford good reasons for the absence of comment upon its provisions. Under our present excellent system for facilitating the inspection of the national archives the deed is preserved at the Public Record Office among the Exchequer Q.R. Accounts No. 307/1, its terms being to the following effect:—

Indenture made between the Sovereign Lady Mary, on earth of the church of England and Ireland supreme head, on the one party, and Thomas Egerton esq: undertreasurer of the mint in the Tower, Thomas Stanley esq: comptroller, William Billingesley assamaster and John Mundes provost of the moneyers on the other party, witnessing that the Queen appointed the four officers as makers and workers of her moneys in the Tower and that they had undertaken to make certain moneys of the standards following: Of the standard of 22 c. 10½ grs. (? 23 c. 10½ grs.) of fine gold and 1½ grs. of allay in the pound Troy four several coins of gold, that is to say, one piece which shall be called the sovereign, running for thirty shillings of lawful money of England, of such weight that 24 shall weigh one pound Troy, and one other piece called the royal, running for fifteen shillings, at 48 to the pound weight, and one other piece called the angel, running for ten shillings, at 72 to the pound, and one other piece called the angellet, running for five shillings, at 144 to the pound. And every
pound weight of the several coins shall contain at the delivery out thirty-six pounds of lawful money. A tripartite and indented standard of gold shall be made, one for the office of the mint so that the High Treasurer may make assays when he thinks fit, another to remain in the Queen's treasury for the assays before the Council at Westminster or elsewhere, and the third shall remain in the custody of the Queen.

The under treasurer shall take up 7s. 9d. of current moneys, that is to say 4s. 0d. for the coinage of [every] pound weight, and 3s. 9d. of the revenue of every pound weight arising from the allay. And it is ordained that from the said 7s. 9d. the fees and wages of the moneys and all other officers and ministers shall be paid. And there shall be paid for every twelve ounces of gold of 24 c. brought in to be coined the sum of £35 16s. 0d. by tale. And whencesoever the coins of gold shall be found at the assay too strong or too feeble by the sixth part of a carat, which is two grains in the pound Troy, and no more, such sixth part shall be called the remedy for the officers; and if default be found in weight or fineness in excess of the remedy, then the delivery shall cease and the same shall be new molten at the cost of the officers,

And the Queen ordains that the four officers shall make and strike into print three manner of moneys of silver of the standard of eleven ounces of fine silver out of the fire and one ounce of allay in the pound Troy, that is to say one piece which shall be called the groat, running for four pence, of such weight that 180 shall weigh one pound troy, and one other piece called the half groat, running for two pence, at 360 to the pound weight, and one other piece called the penny, at 720 to the pound. And every pound Troy shall hold in number and be of the value of three pounds in lawful money. And the treasurer shall pay £3 4s. 0d. for every pound of silver of 12 oz. fine that is brought into the mint. Similar provision is made for three indented standards of silver, and the remedy is fixed at 2 dwts. in the pound troy. The treasurer may take up 17½d. of every pound weight of silver from which the charges shall be defrayed, the residue being paid to the Queen's use. Accounts shall be kept. And the officers covenant to make a privy mark upon all moneys of gold and silver, so that if need be they may "know and wete" the moneys made by them, the same to be declared before the High Treasurer. And before any delivery is made a portion of the moneys of gold and silver shall be put in a pyx or box in the presence of two at least of the officers, whereof the assays shall be made before the High Treasurer or at Westminster before the Council, that is to say, of every "journey" of gold, being ten pounds weight, one piece at the least of every several coin of gold, and of every journey of silver, being fifteen pounds weight, eight pence (? pieces);
And the portions so placed within the box shall be locked with the several keys of the High Treasurer, the under treasurer, the comptroller, and the assay master, to the intent that the first named or the Council may at all times make assay and trial, so that if the money be found "good and covenable" the officers may be quit. And if any fault be found they shall make fine and ransom to the Queen at her pleasure. The whole profit shall be only to the use of the Queen. It is covenanted that the officers shall peaceably enjoy the houses and grounds within the mint, without disturbance by the Constable or Lieutenant of the Tower, and that persons repairing to the mint shall have free entry and issue. The privileges conferred by letters patent of 26 March 5 Edward VI are specially reserved.

Executed at the Queen's manor of Richmond the 20 August in the first year of her most noble reign (1553).

The only addition to the denominations of Edward VI. is the ryal of fifteen shillings, which was a reversion to the type issued by Henry VIII. The current values, however, of the sovereign, angel, and angelet were raised by six shillings, two shillings, and a shilling respectively above those of similar pieces in the third coinage of the preceding reign. There were two innovations in the details of the coins which may be glanced at in passing, first, the insertion of the date on the sovereign and ryal, an entirely new departure as regards our gold coinage, and secondly, the placing of the mint mark somewhat at haphazard among the words of the two legends, instead of in the customary position before the first word. (I am here assuming that the pomegranate was intended to represent the "privy mark" ordered by the foregoing indenture.) All, save one, of the known English coins of Mary can be identified in the deed, the exception being the debased rose penny, for the issue of which I am unable to quote any authority, although a reference to the quantity that was struck will be found later in an Exchequer account (Section IX). The standard of this little coin was only 3 oz. fine silver, being actually inferior to the contemporary Irish currency, and it is certainly astonishing that such a retrograde step should have been taken within a few months after the proclamation which had promised better things.

The queen admittedly improved the standard of her gold coins, but adverse comment has been made upon the supposed discrepancy
between the terms of the proclamation and the indenture with regard to the silver coinage, the latter being alleged to be 1 dwt. worse than the standard used at the end of Edward's reign. I would suggest that judgment be suspended until the document of 1551, by which that king settled his silver standard at 11 oz. 1 dwt. fine is brought to light, if it has survived. Meanwhile, there is the fact that Edward's "Journal," September 22nd to 24th and October 1st, 1551, definitely states that the fineness was to be 11 oz. only, which appears to relieve Mary, for the present, from the charge of making matters worse in this respect. There is also the evidence of Thomas Stanley, the comptroller, who informs Cecil in 1560 that "11 oz. out of the fire" was as good as any prince ever made in England, except "a little" by Edward VI. of 11 oz. 1 dwt. fine, which small quantity could scarcely refer to the very considerable issues of silver money in 1551–2 and 3. For these reasons I am inclined to think, until an assay proves the contrary, that the queen continued her predecessor's standard, and did not lower it. It will be noticed that there is a clause in the indenture providing for the trial of the coins in the pyx, but I have failed to discover any mention of the verdict that would be returned by a jury on such an occasion. If the documents had come down to us, much useful information would have been available for the solution of doubtful points. An Exchequer account establishes the fact that one assay did take place, but whether it was a trial before the Privy Council or the private and less formal enquiry conducted by the officials of the mint, cannot now be determined.

III. In order to show whence some of the bullion was obtained, I will turn for a moment to the Acts of the Privy Council under the date of September 4th, 1553, when a letter was sent to Mr. Peckham, directing him to convert into coin after the standard of 11 oz. fine such plate as remained in the custody of Thomas Egerton, amounting to the full mass of five thousand pounds, in money. This is one instance out of many of the use of sequestrated church plate for mint purposes, and in the same connection it may be interesting to recall a communication from the Rev. J. C. Cox in British Numismatic Journal, vol. iii, p. 337, in which he relates how 8 lbs. of clippings of silver coins, which had
The Coinage of Queen Mary Tudor, 1553-1558;

been found in Derbyshire, were melted down and converted into sacramental plate for the use of the parish. Thus, after long years, the Church may be said to have come into a little of her own.

IV. Having described the terms and conditions under which the queen's coinage was produced, it will be natural to add the names of those who were placed in charge of the operations, and it is the more desirable as Ruding's list is incomplete for this reign. The following are the chief offices to which appointments were made by grant from the Crown during January and February, 1553-4:

Patent Rolls, 1 Mary, part 2.

Thomas Egerton to be under-treasurer, during pleasure, 200 marks p.a.
William Knight, assaymaster, during pleasure, 100 marks p.a.

The same, part 3.

Sir Edmund Peckham, treasurer of the mint and exchange, during good conduct, £200 p.a.
Thomas Stanley, comptroller, during pleasure, £100 p.a.
Thomas Danyell, surveyor of the melting house, during good conduct, £26 13s. 4d. p.a.
Henry Bryand, clerk of the irons, 20 marks p.a.
William Hopkyn, smith, £10 p.a.
Henry Coddenham, auditor, £60 p.a.

To these should be added John Lawrence, sinker of the irons or undergraver, £20, and Henry Monnes (or Mundes), provost of the moneyers, whose offices were not conferred by letters patent. It will not escape attention that the one official at the mint with whom we are more particularly concerned, viz., the engraver, is not mentioned among Mary's new appointments, although Ruding puts forward Vincentius, whose name suggests a Roman centurion rather than a Tudor craftsman, as the holder of that responsible post. This individual must, I fear, be dismissed as apocryphal in view of the testimony, from other sources, that Mary continued to make use of the services of the graver who was employed at the Tower during the last eighteen months of Edward VI. A patent roll of the sixth year of that king records, in part 4, a grant on June 1st, 1552, of the office of chief graver of the irons at the mint within the Tower to "Diric
Anthony," in place of Robert Pytt, lately deceased, at £30 p.a. from Michaelmas then last past, during pleasure. We shall, therefore, be upon firm ground in regarding Anthony as the engraver, and possibly the designer, of the dies for the more youthful portrait of the queen before her marriage. The Visitation of London, 1568, Harleian Society, tells us that Derick Anthony was born at St. Katherine's-by-the-Tower, and that he was chief graver to Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth; which confirms, if support be needed, the documents at the Public Record Office. The register of St. Mary Woolnoth describes him as "goldsmythe." In the earlier part of 1554 sundry proclamations were published declaring the values of the foreign moneys, which were then legal tender in these islands, two of the coins being the Spanish ducat and double ducat "with two faces," a type which was destined to become much more familiar to the English people some nine months later when Philip was king consort.

V. The surviving mint accounts for this period of the reign do not throw much light upon the quality or the quantity of the coinage, but one or two incidental matters are perhaps not without interest. Sir Edmund Peckham, in an account which extends from April 1st, 6 Edw. VI. (1552), to May 13th, 1 Mary (1554), debits himself with the money which came from five thousand ounces of Church plate received out of the Jewel House in the Tower, to be coined. The High Treasurer had coined into angels of 23 c. 10½ grs. fine certain French and Burgonyon crowns, Phillippus gilders, Keiser's roialls, and golden gilders, all of which came from Sir Thomas Gresham, the queen's agent in Flanders, who is well known in history as the negotiator of foreign loans to England.

Peckham is also charged with money coming from two chains of gold, the one "wrethen," weighing 84½ oz., the other plain, weighing 43½ oz., at 58s. 6¼d. the oz., received on February 8th, 1553-4, "by hir highnes owne owne handes," which being converted by Her Grace's commandment did make in angels, less coinage, the sum of £375 5s. 3½d. Also, with the proceeds of two crownettes of gold, about 30 oz., and one "standing bolle" of gold with a cover, about 54 oz., in all 84½ oz. at 55s. 11d., which were likewise delivered to him the same
day "by the quenes majesties owne handes," and coined into angels, making £236 3s. 6½d. (Declared Accounts, Pipe Office, 2080.) If I interpret aright the meaning of these two transactions, it is pleasant to think that the embittered queen, of whom so many hard things have been justly said, exchanged a portion of the contents of her private jewel casket for angels to be used as touch pieces in the cause of charity.

VI. We next reach an apposite illustration of the high-handed methods which obtained in Tudor days, indeed, it may be doubted whether the autocratic Henry VIII. ever went quite so far in order to obtain what he wanted under similar conditions. A warrant signed by Mary and undated, but before she relinquished the title of "supreme head of the Church," authorizes the treasurer and other officers of the mint to take and retain anywhere within her realms, goldsmiths, finers, engravers and other artificers, together with copper, lead and other materials requisite for the making of her moneys, and building materials for the mint in the Tower, at such prices as shall be thought sufficient by the treasurer. And in case any persons shall be obstinate or disobedient it shall be lawful for the officers to take them and remand them to ward without bail, until their punishment shall be sufficient. (Stowe MSS. 142, No. 15.)

VII. That the government had been troubled by the activities of forgers, and that the undesirable alien was even then a burden in the land, may be gathered from an enrolment of an act of Royal clemency—

The Queen pardons, remits and relaxes to Cristofer Valesco, lately of London, gen, alias Xpöfer Valasco of Spain, and to Andrew Pomér lately of London, goldsmith, alias Andrew Pomér, Doucheman, the penalties for being fabricators of false monies of her Kingdom and the parts outside. Patent Rolls 1 Mary, part 3, dated 2nd June.

The second of the two offenders is probably identical with the Andrew Pomeraye mentioned in the Domestic State Papers of 1556 as an engraver who was alleged to have made false dies. The Privy Council had to deal with many cases of coining and clipping at this time, and one prisoner was to be put to the torture, "if thought to be convenient."
VIII. On July 25th, 1554, the queen was married to Philip in Winchester Cathedral, an alliance which brought about a change in the denominations, types, and legends of the coinage, but the standards of fineness, weights, and current values remained, I believe, unaltered in England. It is said by Leake that a commission authorizing a new coinage was signed on December 6th, 1554, while Lowndes remarks that there was an indenture of the same year under which the old standards were ordered to be used. Ruding is content to quote these two authors, but neither the documents nor any official reference to their existence can be found to-day. In the Lansdowne MSS. No. 706, there are several notes on mint affairs of the sixteenth century, but nothing that materially helps us at this point.

Under these circumstances I must fall back upon Philip and Mary’s proclamation on the subject, as being the only available expression of their intentions as to the currency.

An original print of this document is in the library of the Society of Antiquaries—

Westminster. 26 Dec. 1 and 2 Philip and Mary (1554).

Reciting that the Queen had, in the first year of her reign, caused to be made certain coins of fine gold and fine silver; that the King and Queen were resolved to continue the said fine moneys and had caused to be newly made in their mints certain coins of gold and silver of the fine standards, viz.:

- of fine gold, the sovereign to be of the value of 30s.
  - the royal " " " 15s.
  - the angel " " " 10s.
  - the half angel " " " 5s.
- of fine silver, the shilling " " " 12d.
  - the half-shilling " " " 6d.
  - the groat " " " 4d.

which were to be current within their realm of England and the dominions of the same. That such base moneys as had been reduced to a lower rate should still be current at the rate proclaimed by Edward VI.

The first comment by those who are familiar with the coinage of the period will be to point out that the sovereign and the ryal were not, in fact, struck by Mary and her consort, the angel and its half
being the only known gold coins. Probably a scarcity of bullion counselled prudence. There are also other differences between the denominations announced on December 26th, and the coins as we know them. The rose penny of 3 oz. fine appears to be still without official recognition, although it is the only piece which can be said to be common from the collector's standpoint; the half-groat and the penny of fine silver, which are not included in the proclamation, should, I think, be assigned to a commission of 1557 (No. XIII), which directed the issue of these, among other, denominations. I would venture to make the further suggestion that neither angels, nor angelets, nor groats of Philip and Mary were issued at the end of 1554, but that these three coins were first seen in 1557, by virtue of the commission which has just been mentioned. This elimination, if well-founded, would leave the shilling and sixpence of 1554 as the only tangible and immediate result of the proclamation. My proposal to rearrange the chronological sequence of some of the undated coins is tentative at present, but the probabilities, as I dimly see them, appear to point to the conclusions indicated. The vis-à-vis portraits on the shilling and sixpence have been discussed, and their origin traced with such thoroughness by Miss Farquhar in *British Numismatic Journal*, vol. iv, p. 120, etc., that it only remains for me to add that the queen's bust on the later groats and smaller pieces is noticeably older and more austere than that on the corresponding coins before her marriage.

In addition to the new portraits, the letters used in the legends show a change in character, those of the king and queen being mainly Roman, whereas those of Mary were for the most part Lombardic; the distinction is not, however, absolute as the alphabets are occasionally mixed. The mint mark now returns to its normal position in the legend, and no longer runs the risk of being mistaken for an elaborate stop; the shillings are entirely without a mark, as are the sixpences until 1557 when the fleur-de-lys is found, and the rose pennies bear a small replica of the flower which occupies the field of the obverse. The alterations which were made in the titles of Philip and Mary on some of their silver currency merit a few words. I share the opinion that...
the earliest legends were those setting out Philip's foreign dignities, and that the extreme unpopularity of all things Spanish caused the abandonment, after the first issue of 1554, of any reference to Naples or Spain, and the substitution of English titles solely. I am disposed to regard the dated shillings and sixpences as the official types, the undated specimens being the result of an omission or freak of the graver or the moneyers. It should here be borne in mind that the angel, the angelet, and the silver below sixpence in value do not show the foreign titles of the king consort, which supports to some extent my theory that no issue of gold or small silver coins followed the proclamation.

Derick Anthony continued as chief graver after the queen's marriage, and doubtless engraved the dies for the new issue, although his responsibility for the obverse design, which was based upon Trezzo's medal, is not so certain. In the Chronicle of Queen Jane and two years of Queen Mary (Camden Society, p. 82), which is anonymous but is said to have been written by a resident in the Tower who had a knowledge of mint affairs, there is the following entry under the date of September, 1554: "At this tyme wer the newe coynes with the doble face, devised by Sir John Godsalve and Thomas Egerton." Now, Sir John Godsalve had been comptroller of the Tower mint under Edward VI., and was presumably a man of some experience in such matters, seeing that he received in 1554 two payments for making the Privy Seal and the seal for the Court of Wards (Dom. S.P.). Skill in penmanship must be added to his other talents, as he was again rewarded in 1555 for his pains in writing the submission to the Pope, but any further reference to his lending a hand with the coinage is not forthcoming. All this raises a new question for solution. Was Godsalve or was Anthony the designer of the "doble face" type of the new issue, or did they work in collaboration? I confess that I cannot supply an answer. Thomas Egerton was, as we know, under-treasurer of the mint at that time.

The same chronicle of the two queens records that on Tuesday, October 2nd, 1554, there came to the Tower, in twenty carts, ninety-seven little chests of silver guarded by Spaniards, which would make
by estimation fifty thousand pounds (p. 83). Machyn, another contemporary diarist, confirms the date, but differs as to the number of vehicles, and tells us that the treasure consisted of wedges of gold and silver to be coined.

IX. Let us now pass on to an Exchequer Account by the under-treasurer which covers two years from Christmas 1 Mary (1553) to Christmas 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1555), Declared Account, Audit Office, 1670/497. This account and that already quoted (No. V) are the only documents of this class which can be found. We read that Egerton was debited with the profits arising from the coining of—

1638 lbs. of gold, 23 c. 10½ grs. fine, on which the “coinage revenue,” or seignorage, at 4½. the lb. was £327 12s. 0d.

and 45,935 lbs. 2 oz. of silver, 11 oz. fine, on which the revenue at 1½d. the lb. was £3,349 8s. 9½d.

during the two years in question.

In order to show the weight of silver which was used in the mint before and after the proclamation of December 26th, 1554, I have extracted some figures from the returns for those months in which the moneyers were at work. Between February and November, 1554, both inclusive, the total was 22,407 lbs. Between December, 1554, the proclamation month, and November, 1555, both inclusive, the total was 29,441 lbs.

The figures for December, 1554, show an increase of about two and a-half times over those of the preceding month, viz., 3,992 lbs. as against 1,568 lbs., the largest total being in March, 1554—5, when 5,864 lbs. were melted, vide infra. The last month, November, 1555, is the smallest with 239 lbs. only, and from that date there was presumably no output until 1557, for which year, however, the returns are missing.

The accountant is also charged with the profits of altering, converting and coining the sum of £17,735 18s. 10½d. of Spanish “royalls” into the current money of this realm, 11 oz. fine silver, weighing 6,000 lbs. and containing 89 lbs. “allay”; out of which was made in “redye pitched moneys,” during the month of March 1 and 2 Philip and Mary (1554—5), current coins of England weighing 5,864 lbs. and amounting
to £17,592 in value. As this conversion was the subject of a separate entry, it probably brought into use a portion of the treasure from Spain which was mentioned at the end of the preceding section, VIII.

The account further states that certain testons and pieces of twopence of the base moneys, then current, had been melted down and converted into rose pence of the standard of 3 oz. fine silver and 9 oz. "allay," amounting to 6,510 lbs. weight of pence valued at 40s. the lb., the equivalent of 12 grs. to the penny. Here, then, we see the origin of the mysterious coin which has no history outside the figures in this account, and those in an Irish document to be mentioned in section XVI.

Under the heading of "diets" an allowance is craved for money disbursed by reason of divers Spaniards attending in the mint during the coining of the king's bullion by his Highness's order. This intervention is also referred to by Strype in his Annals of the Reformation, which tell us that Philip's implements of coining had been detained at the Tower after Mary's death, and that in obedience to a certificate from Stanley the comptroller, certain iron tools and other instruments were handed to the treasurer of the King of Spain. If the inference may be drawn that Philip converted some of his imported bullion into currency for the use of his foreign dominions, it would explain the existence of the Netherlands gold crown with his English title, as illustrated by Ruding in Suppl., part 2, pl. 3, No. 8.

The account also shows that the appliances at the mint were then being added to or altered, as Brock, Rogers, and Holt (sic) were engaged "in working certain devices for coying of moneys." The first named is probably identical with the "Mr. Brocke" who is said to have erected a "great mill" in the Tower. (Dom. S.P. 1559.)

In the same document the graver's name is given in a list of fees as "Anthony Dethyk," which appears to be a blundered compound of the respective surnames of Garter King of Arms and the mint officer.

X. The Acts of the Privy Council for 1556 show that dissatisfaction had arisen. On June 14th the queen declares that five of her Council, Peckham being the only member connected with the coinage, should take upon them the charge of mint matters, and consider what means should be devised for the reformation of the coins. Shortly
before the appointment of this committee Egerton had retired from the
under-treasurership, heavily in debt to the queen on the mint accounts,
his house having been sold to discharge the liability.

On September 2nd, in the same year, a letter is sent to inform
Peckham that as the queen is charged £104 yearly for the diet of her
officers, and as “there have not byn of long tyme any coynage,” it is
her pleasure that the diets shall cease from the time of the last issue,
and shall not be paid for in future. It is clear from this that Mary
kept an eye upon the details of her expenditure, and that the mint was
practically closed after November, 1555, until August, 1557. During
the interval “Dirrick graver of the mint,” was engaged upon the new
great seal, and received the silver for that purpose by order of the
Privy Council in June, 1556.

There is an undated State Paper of Philip and Mary (vol. 14,
Nos. 18 and 19), which is in the form of a report upon currency
matters. It sets out “the order now presently used at the mint,”
which is followed by a “new order if it may be liked” concerning the
working of that establishment; the chief suggested alteration is an
increase of the charge for coining silver, from 17½d. to 18d. the pound
roy, gold remaining as before at 4s. the pound. This increase in the
seignorage was evidently approved by the Council, as 18d. appears
for the first time in a commission of August 5th, 1557 (No. XIII).

XI. We must now return to the Patent Rolls to take note of a com-
mmission (3 and 4 Philip and Mary, part 5, June 28th, 1557), directed to
three officials of the mint, ordering them to receive silver bullion when
it should thereafter be sent in, and to coin groats alone of the 11 oz.
standard. The wording of the instructions is unusual, and as there
are no groats which can be safely allocated to this isolated order,
I am led to believe that the necessary bullion was not, in fact,
provided by the King and Queen, and that in consequence no coins
were struck.

It will not be necessary to quote any of the clauses of this
commission as another and a very fruitful order of wider scope followed
within the short space of six weeks, which is an additional reason for
holding that the earlier commission was unproductive.
XII. On July 8th, 1557 (Pat. Rolls 3 and 4, Philip and Mary, part 12), the Marquess of Winchester and others, of whom Peckham was one, are directed to repair to the mint in the Tower, and to cause to be melted down such quantities of silver moneys, then current in England and Ireland, as shall be sufficient for a good knowledge of their fineness and standard.

If the object of this step was merely to assay the pyx moneys, the form of the order is peculiar, and therefore it may be more correct to infer that a general scheme for improving the coinage was under consideration, of which Ireland, at all events, stood sorely in need.

XIII. I will close this review of the English historical evidence by citing the material parts of a commission which has not, as far as I am aware, been previously noticed in any of the numismatic text-books (Pat. Rolls, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary, part 9), dated August 5th, 1557:

Commission to Sir Edmund Peckham, high treasurer, Thos. Stanley, comptroller, Thos. Gravesende, assaymaster, and John Monies, provost of the moneyers, authorizing them to prepare gold and silver coins as hereafter mentioned.

Of the standard of 23 c. 10.5 grs. of fine gold out of the fire, and 1.5 grs. of allay in the pound troy.
The angel “running” for ten shillings of lawful money, and of such weight that 72 shall weigh one pound.
The angellet, for five shillings, and weighing 144 to the pound.
Every pound weight of coins shall amount to £36 of lawful money, and from each pound 4s. shall be “taken up” for the charges.

Of the standard of 11 oz. of fine silver out of the fire and 1 oz. of allay.
The half-shilling, running for six pence and weighing 120 to the pound.
The half-groat “ “ four “ “ 180 “ “
The groat “ “ two “ “ 360 “ “
The penny “ “ one penny “ “ 720 “ “
Every pound weight of coins shall amount to £3 of lawful money, and from each pound 18s. shall be taken up.

A remedy of 2 grs. and 2 dwt. in the pound is provided for the gold and silver moneys, respectively, and the officers covenant to make a privy mark on all coins before they are issued.

The proportion of gold which is to be placed in the pyx remains unaltered, but the silver is at the rate of three pieces at the least of every several coin out of each “journey” of thirty pounds weight.
The three keys of the chest shall "abide towards" the like number of officers, and the subsequent assay shall be made after the most just manner, either by fire, touch, or water.

Thomas Gravesend, one of the parties to this agreement, was granted by letters patent of July 21st, 1557, the office of master of the assayers of gold and silver within the Tower for his life.

I think it will be agreed that the document is of no little importance in attempting to determine the sequence of Philip and Mary's coins. By good fortune there is a sixpence bearing the date of the same year, 1557, which may consequently be assigned to the issue then ordered. This sixpence has the fleur-de-lys mint mark, and as every denomination mentioned in the commission, and no others, can be found with the same mark, I feel that we shall be justified in saying that the angel and its half, together with the groat, half-groat, and penny, were issued contemporaneously with the dated sixpence of 1557, and not immediately after the marriage proclamation. If that be so, we have in this reign a partial anticipation of the system which was adopted by Elizabeth's mint officers, viz., to date only a few denominations in each issue, leaving the undated coins to be arranged in accordance with the mint marks.

On the 19th of the same month of August, Stanley is directed to stay £9,000, which was to be coined at the Tower, of the first money struck from the king's bullion, and to retain that sum for the queen's use. (Acts of P.C.)

Lest it should be thought that I have overlooked the large silver piece weighing about 250 grains, and described at present as a half-crown, I will add that a careful search has not produced a shred of information as to its origin, not even a note of the expenditure in engraving the dies from which the three known examples were struck.

The Handbook of the British Museum mentions that a quarter shilling or threepence was ordered, but here again the records are obstinately silent as to such a coin.