


THE CHESTER MINT OF CHARLES I.

BY HENRY SYMONDS, F.S.A.

HE attribution of certain half-crowns to a Civil-War mint at Chester has been based upon (1) the mint mark of three garbs, or sheaves of grain, which form one of the charges upon the city's armorial shield, and (2) the presence of the letters C H S T between the feet of the horse.

No one, I think, need quarrel with this attribution, but, satisfactory as it is, I hope to strengthen the probabilities still more by adducing a fragment of evidence, from manuscripts in the possession of the Corporation of Chester, that coins were, in fact, ordered to be struck there.

Assembly book, 1624 to 1684.

Order, 31 January 20 Charles I, 1644-5.

That as much of the antiente plate of this citty as will amounte to the sum of one hundred poundes shall be forthwith converted into coyne for the necessary use and defence of this citty and towards the payment of the citties debts.

It seems pretty clear, therefore, that these half-crowns were made between the date of the memorandum quoted above and the 3rd of February, 1645-6, the day on which Chester was surrendered by Lord Byron to the Parliamentary besiegers under Sir William Brereton, a period of one year and three days.



PORTRAIT OF MARY II. IN OIL ON COPPER, FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL IN
THE AUTHOR'S COLLECTION, SIZE $\frac{1}{4}$.