

A NOTE ON THE "BLACKSMITH'S," OR KILKENNY,  
HALFCROWNS OF CHARLES I.

BY J. B. S. MAC ILWAINE, R.H.A.



A "BLACKSMITH'S" HALFCROWN.

**I**N the second volume of the *Journal*, Dr. Nelson gives five readings of the obverse legend on the "Blacksmith's" halfcrowns of Charles I. and for comparison they are repeated here.

**CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BRI · FRA · ET · HIB · REX ·**

**CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BRI · FRA · ET · HIB · RE ·**

**CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BRI · FR · ET · HIB · REX ·**

**CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BR · FR · ET · HI · REX ·**

**CAROLVS · D · G · MA · BR · FR · ET · HI · REX ·**


In the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, now in the National Museum, Dublin, there is a specimen varied from any of the above in reading BR and HIB, namely :—

**CAROLVS · D · G · MAG · BR · FR · ET · HIB · REX ·** Weight, 195 grains.

Another example of this class recently added to the collection and illustrated above, is similar to the third in the list except that the letter G is of a more modern form.

**CAROLVS • D • G • MAG • BRI • FR • ET • HIB • REX •** Weight, 230 grains.

The letter G is identical with that on the reproduction of a similar coin in the *Handbook of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland*, Plate LXI, No. 8 ; the weight, however, is more, being exactly 230 grains.

Another feature is a pellet upon each side of the mint-mark, a cross on the obverse. Perhaps as that to the left is treated as a stop after REX, that to the right should be described as a pellet before CAROLVS. This also occurs, although less prominently, on Dr. Nelson's illustration, and there the G is transitional between  and G.

The specimen is in very good condition, as may be seen from the illustration, and is from the Kildare Find, a short account of which was published in volume ix of the *Journal*. By the courtesy of Mr. E. C. R. Armstrong, Keeper of the Irish Antiquities in the National Museum, Dublin, permission to allow its reproduction was obtained from the authorities, to whom our thanks are due.