FURTHER NOTES ON THE IRISH COINAGE, 1641–1652.¹

By the late F. Willson Yeates.

The Editor's Note.—On the death of Mr. Frederick Willson Yeates, in November, 1922, these notes were found unfinished in his desk. Miss Helen Farquhar, having had the privilege and pleasure of discussing with him the short paper he proposed to write as a sequel to his former interesting article, offered her services to Mrs. Willson Yeates to check the documents and fill in any missing references. This, with the help of Mr. Lionel Fletcher, has been done, and it has been thought best to publish the notes left by Mr. Yeates almost without any alteration or amplification, as no one is in a position to know how far Mr. Yeates would have followed up certain clues and have possibly developed this postscript into a further treatise.

As the result of the publication of the writer's paper on "The Coinage of Ireland during the Rebellion, 1641–1652," in vol. xv of the British Numismatic Society's Journal, 1919–1920, and of continued research, material for a further paper has accumulated.

1. The Kilkenny Money.

The Confederated Catholics, by their order of 15th November, 1642, directed that "the plate of this kingdom be coined with the ordinary stamps used in the moneys now currant." To this order the writer ascribed two coins on square flans, the one showing the

¹ Postscript to the article in British Numismatic Journal, vol. xv.
King on horseback, and the other the King's head, with the Royal Arms in oval and square shields respectively on the reverse, and both without any legends; and he showed that these coins, which were illustrated on Plate I, Figs. 4 and 5 of his article, were copies of the Tower half-crown and shilling, with the mint-mark triangle in circle, Figs. 6 and 7. The square shilling weighed 61 grains, which roughly corresponded to the Irish standard weight.

Miss Farquhar has been fortunate in adding to her collection a hitherto unpublished square sixpence of this issue, which may be described as follows:—

**Obverse.**—Crowned head of Charles I to left within a plain circle.

**Reverse.**—The Royal Arms on a square shield garnished, within a circle. Struck on a piece of silver three-quarters of an inch in diameter, nearly square shaped. Weight 29.3 grains.

The coin is unfortunately too poorly struck to illustrate well, but it would appear to be a rough copy of the Tower sixpence, 4th type, with square shield on the reverse, which was issued from 1637 onward. No doubt the die had the numerals VI behind the King's head, but there is little trace of them on the coin, although part of the V is discernible, and the inner circle corresponds in measurement with that upon an average sixpence, so far as one may tell, considering that only a part of the design finds its place upon so small a coin.

![Irish Sixpence in Miss Farquhar's Collection](image-url)

The writer's half-crown, it will be remembered, was struck upon a copper blank, but a similar piece in silver has been brought

It weighs only 118 ½ grains, rather less than twice the weight of Miss Farquhar's shilling.

The design, as in the case of the writer's example, is too large for the blank, and being somewhat differently placed, it is here illustrated; indeed, it is possible that a second die was used on both obverse and reverse—certainly on the latter.

On page 199 of his original paper the writer refers to an octagonal threepence with the lion mint-mark. This coin also is now in Miss Farquhar's collection. It has the numerals III behind the King's head, and weighs 23 ½ grains, which is about 2 or 2 ½ grains heavier than the ordinary York specimens of the Charles I threepence. It is, therefore, intended to be a trial piece of the English standard weight, which is 23 ½ grains, and could not belong to the Confederated Catholics issue. The writer has heard nothing of the two square coins with the lion mint-mark, illustrated by Ruding, which might perhaps represent a crown and a sixpence of the Confederated Catholics issue. The appearance of the square sixpence recently discovered makes this attribution very unlikely, but until the coins themselves appear the point may be left open.

2. The Ormond Money.

On page 205 of his original paper the writer had to admit that he had been unable to trace the publication in England or Ireland of the proclamation making the Ormond issue current in England as well as Ireland.

1 A third example, of five silver, is in the Cathedral Library, Winchester.—W. J. Andrew, Editor.

In Messrs. Sotheby's book sale on the 20th of June, 1922, appeared, as Lot 514, a collection of 90 Stuart proclamations in two volumes belonging to Major G. Wentworth, of Woody Park, Wakefield, and No. 43 annotated in 1905 as "said to be unique," was catalogued as a print of the proclamation making the Ormond coins current in England. Unfortunately this No. 43 proved to be only the first page of the proclamation, and nowhere in the two volumes could the second page be traced by the writer's emissary; but by an extraordinary coincidence a print of the second sheet only is in the British Museum.¹

ORMOND MONEY.

After setting out the Lords Justices' proclamation of the 8th of July, 1643, making the Ormond coins current in Ireland, substantially in the form given by Simon in his Appendix XLVII, the English proclamation proceeds:—

"And whereas our pleasure and purpose was and is that the said several pieces of coyne should be made to passe currant as well in this our Kingdome of England as in that of Ireland. We doe by this our proclamation publish and Declare to all our Subjects

¹ See Proclamation II, Charles I, 21, h. 1 (81).
within this our Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*. That all such pieces as already are, or shall be coyned according to Our said Letters and the Commission thereupon granted doe, and shall presently, after the publishing of this Our Proclamation, be currant mony of and in this Our Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, and doe, and shall passe as currant Mony in all exchanges and payments, as well of debts as for any Wares Merchandizes or other commodities whatsoever. And we doe hereby will and require, that this Our Proclamation, be forthwith published, and Proclaimed, throughout all Cities and places of this Our Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*.

"Given at Our Court at Oxford this thirteenth day of October in the nineteenth yeare of our Raigne 1643.

"God save the King.

"Printed at Oxford by Leonard Lichfield, Printer to the University, 1643."

To make the documents relating to this issue complete, there only remains to be found a copy of the proclamation by the Irish Lords Justices, dated between the 13th of October and the 11th of December, 1643, informing the Irish public that the issue had been made current in England and Wales as well as in Ireland. It will be noticed that Scotland is not mentioned in the proclamation.

The writer’s statement on page 205 of his original paper that Lord Ormond had not anything to do with the issue of the Ormond money must be modified, because the copy in the British Museum of the King’s proclamation of the 13th of October, 1643, after setting out the Lords Justices’ proclamation of the 8th of July, 1643, sets out the signatures to that proclamation, which are not given by Simon. On the first line below the date was "La. Dublin,"1 "Ormond," followed by the signatures of "Roscomon, Edw. Brabazon, Ant. Midensis, Cha. Lambert, I. Temple, Tho. Rotherham, Fr. Willoughby, Tho. Lucas, Iam. Ware, and G. Wentworth."

1 La[n]celot Bulkeley, Archbishop of Dublin.