

**TOKENS ISSUED IN THE
SEVENTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH,
AND NINETEENTH
CENTURIES, IN YORKSHIRE**

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Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries, in Yorkshire by
William Boyne

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WILLIAM BOYNE

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TOKENS

ISSUED IN THE

SEVENTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH, AND NINETEENTH
CENTURIES,

IN YORKSHIRE,

BY

Tradesmen, Overseers of the Poor, etc.,

IN

GOLD, SILVER, BRASS, AND COPPER.

ALSO

The Seals of all the Corporations in that County.

BY

WILLIAM BOYNE, F.S.A.,

HON. MEMBER OF THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, LEARN.

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PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.



THE issue of money has in all ages and countries been considered a prerogative of the Government, whether monarchical or republican. The Tokens described in the present Work, belonging exclusively to the County of York, constitute only a small portion of those belonging to the entire kingdom, and offer no exception to the above rule, as they were issued without Government authority, under urgent necessity arising from the want of small change.

The earliest money current in England, from the Norman Conquest to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was in silver and gold. In the former metal there were coins as low in value as halfpennies and farthings; these, from their very small size and weight (the halfpenny of Elizabeth weighing only four grains), were lost soon after they were put in circulation, and have now become rarities in the cabinets of the curious, though we know that they were issued in large numbers. The want of small change compelled the public to use inferior foreign fabrications, which passed under the names of black-mail, turneys, abbey-pieces, crockards, dotkins, etc., principally of brass; there were also leaden Tokens, struck in England; but all, whether of

brass or lead, were illegal. Of the Tokens of the latter kind, which were of a mean appearance, rarely having either inscription or date, none are known which can positively be assigned to Yorkshire, though it is very likely that there was such a currency, as the important city of York must have needed them as much as other cities. In the reign of Elizabeth the Government intended to issue a copper coinage for general circulation, but this was never carried into effect: in Ireland, however, a penny and halfpenny of copper were issued in the years 1601 and 1602; permission was also granted to the Corporation of the City of Bristol, to strike a farthing Token, the first legal coin of that kind. James I., in 1613, the eleventh year of his reign, granted a patent to Lord Harrington to issue farthings, which was further extended by Charles I.; these were issued in such large quantities that small traders were almost ruined by them, the patentees refusing to rechange them. This created such a clamour that they were put down by order of Parliament in 1644, and the estates of the patentees seized to meet the loss sustained in the rechange of the farthings.

The Civil Wars having broken out, the Royal authority fell into contempt, and immediately before or after the death of the King, every one who chose took upon himself to issue his small moneys; the earliest date found on these coins is 1648. The first decisive act of the Civil Wars took place in Yorkshire, the Governor of Hull having refused the King's admission into the Citadel, the Court at that time being held at Beverley. In the early part of the contest there were many bloody battles fought in the County: Leeds, Bradford, etc. were taken. The battle of Adwalton was nearly fatal to the Parliamentarians: nothing but the stubborn energy of their General, Sir Thomas Fairfax, saving the cause. In the still more memorable battle of Marston Moor the Royalists were utterly routed, and immediately afterwards the City of York was taken by the Parliamentarians. Pontefract Castle held out until after the King's death, and his son was proclaimed there as Charles II., in 1649, and money struck in his name. Ferdinando Lord Fairfax, and his still more eminent son Sir Thomas Fairfax, were natives of Yorkshire, as

well as General Lambert. Though this County took such a decided part, it does not seem that the masses were favourable to the destruction of the Monarchy; the Tokens to some degree show that the feelings of the people were eminently loyal, from the frequent devices of the King's Head, King's Arms, Rose and Crown, George and Dragon, and other insignia of royalty, particularly in the North. We may also see by the Tokens that the first two Stuart Kings were not popular, the name of James occurring only six times, and Charles only three times, amongst the 400 Yorkshire Tokens of the Seventeenth Century.

The Tokens were issued to such an extent that it is presumed twenty thousand varieties were issued in England, Wales, and Ireland. The Government of Charles II. was induced to issue a national copper currency, and in 1665 patterns of halfpennies and farthings were struck at the Mint; but it was not until 1672 that the farthings of similar size to those of the present day were ready for circulation, when the Tokens were suppressed by a stringent Proclamation of the King. Some attempts were made to continue them, but the threat of Government taking proceedings against the offenders effectually put them down, and after this time we hear no more of them.

The letter-press of the following List of Tokens of the Seventeenth Century is the same as the Yorkshire section which appeared in the Author's larger work on the "Tokens issued in the Seventeenth Century in England, Wales, and Ireland, by Corporations, Merchants, Tradesmen, etc." (London, J. B. Smith, 8vo, 1858), except No. 42, a Farthing of Thomas Corbit, of Bridlington, which is additional. Plates 1 and 2 are new for this work. Plates 3, 4, 5, and 6 are from the Book previously named. The sizes and types of the Tokens are well exemplified in the first four Plates; Plates 5 and 6 show the Arms of the incorporated Trade Companies of the City of London, which were assumed also by persons of the same trade throughout the country generally; these Plates will be found useful for reference, as well as in saving the frequent description of these Arms; the whole of them, however, are not found in the Yorkshire series. Besides the Trade Arms we have those of the Abbays of Bridlington,