

An Account of the Money, Coins, and Weights, used in England, during the Reigns of the Saxon Princes.

Extracted from a Manuscript written by James Stirling of Leadhills, Esquire.

BEFORE the conquest of England by William the Norman, all coins were denominations of weight, stamped and verified at the King's mint. Mankind had not then learned the way of giving to coins any other names than such as were truly analogous to their weight. It was, however, very common to have many denominations of *money* which never were realized into coins; but still their denominations carried a value exactly in proportion to the weight which gave them their name.

Example.—Before the conquest, there was no *English* coin which had a legal currency, except the *penny*. This, however, did not prevent their reckoning by pounds, *oras*, *marks*, and *shillings*. These were all denominations of *English* weights, as well as of *English* money; and their respective value, when mentioned in history or old writings as denominations of money, does depend upon their proportion as denominations of weights.

The only way, therefore, to communicate an accurate idea of *English* money in this period, is to investigate the state of their weights.

After

After the thorough settlement of the Romans in this island, great quantities of their coin circulated in Britain, and there is no doubt that, for several ages after the invasion of the Saxons, the same coin would continue to be current among them. But these and other foreign coins acquired, in time, new denominations, or names, analogous to the language of their Saxon conquerors, or to that of the foreign merchants who introduced them. Thus the gold *solidus* of Constantine the Great, came to be called in England the gold *mancus*; and the *denier* of silver coined by Louis the Debonnaire was called the *scata*.

All that can be done to clear up this perplexity, is to lay together every fragment, and every trace from old records, making mention of the denomination or weight of money or coins known in England in this period; and to compare these weights and denominations with one another, and with the coins *known* in the countries then most in correspondence with England.

It is evident from many ancient documents, that, before the conquest, two money pounds were familiarly known in England. The one was the great pound, consisting of 15 ounces, the other was the small pound, consisting of 12 of the same ounces.

Every ounce contained four shillings, consequently in the great pound there were 60 shillings, and in the small pound there were 48 shillings. In every shilling again there were five pennies, 20 in one ounce.

These were the most familiar and progressive denominations of *English* money, in which, although the pounds were different, still no difference was found in the ounce or *ora*, in the shillings, or in these pennies of 20 in the ounce.

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Another denomination of both money and weight was the mark, or two thirds of the pound; consequently, the mark corresponding to the great pound was 10 ounces or 40 shillings, and the mark corresponding to the small pound was eight ounces or 32 shillings.

Having thus enumerated the principal coins and denominations of *English* money, I must mention those of foreign nations, which were used in England, and which frequently occur in authors who have written of English affairs in the Saxon times.

The Roman money at the time of the conquest of Britain by the Romans, was reckoned by *asses*, *denarii*, and great and small *sesterces*. This is the money mentioned by Tacitus, and other writers on Roman affairs.

This reckoning continued until Constantine the Great made a total alteration; and, instead of the former, introduced *solidi* of gold, of which 72 were coined out of one pound of this metal; that is to say, six out of the Roman ounce. He coined also *semisses* or half *solidi*, 12 in the ounce, and *tremisses* or thirds, 18 in the ounce, all gold coins.

The silver coin he called *millearenfis*, and ordered 60 to be coined out of the pound of silver, or five in the ounce; and 12 *millearenfes* had the same denomination and value as one gold *solidus*.

These coins soon became the universal currency, over all the Roman empire, and consequently in Britain, as long as the Romans maintained their possession of it.

The pound used in the Imperial mint by Constantine the Great, and his successors, consisted of 5142, $\frac{1}{4}$ grains Troy, and the ounce

428.57;

428.57; consequently his gold *solidi* weighed 71.428 grains, and the silver *millearenfis* weighed 85.714 grains, all Troy weight.

But Charlemagne introduced a new pound into his mint, which he called *pondus Caroli*, by which he continued to coin *solidi* of gold as before, 72 in his pound, or six in his ounce; but as the pound he substituted instead of the old Roman mint-pound, weighed 5040 grains only, and the ounce 420, his gold *solid* weighed 70 grains only, and his *deniers* 20 in the ounce (instead of the *millearenfis*) weighed 21 grains, all Troy weight.

His successor Louis the Debonnaire coined *deniers* of 16 in the ounce, (instead of 20 in the ounce) and these passed very currently in England, together with the new coin of Charlemagne; until the introduction of Sterling money, by the princes of the Norman race.

As the communication between Britain and the continent became less familiar, these foreign coins received new names. The *solidi* of Constantine the Great, and afterwards those of Charlemagne, were, as has been said, called *manuces* of gold; and the *deniers* of Louis the Debonnaire were called *scatas*. The Saxons had also the silver *mancus*, which appears to have been rather a denomination of foreign money, than a real coin; and they had the *thrims*, which was one eighth part of the silver *mancus*. Let this suffice as to the coins and denominations of foreign money known in England in the time of the Saxons.

It has been said, that before the Norman conquest there was no money coined in England, except pennies; and the only legal penny, by the law of Edward the Confessor, was the middling penny, 20 in the ounce. The fineness of the English silver pennies was nine parts fine silver to one part copper, and the pound they

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were

were coined by was 5250 Troy grains. So the middling penny weighed 21.875 grains, and the other pennies in proportion.

As we have now got the weight and fineness of the English coin, and as we have abundance of examples of the conversions of value between the English coins and the coins and denominations of foreign money, preserved by English writers, I shall here set down in a table the weight in Troy grains, of every denomination mentioned above, with the conversion of their value into present Sterling money.

TABLE of the value of the English Money, as it stood at the Norman Conquest, reduced to present Sterling, to which is added, the weight of each denomination in Troy grains.

	L.	s.	d.	Troygrains.
The great pound of 15 ounces	3	8	9	6562.5
The small pound of 12 ounces	2	5	0	5250.
The great mark of 10 ounces	2	5	10	4375.
The small mark of 8 ounces	1	16	8	3500.
The silver mancus of 1½ ounce	0	6	10	1156.375.
The ora or ounce	0	4	7	437.5
The shilling 4 in the ounce	0	1	1½	190.375.
The thrims or ¼ of the silver mancus	0	0	10¼	144.5408
The great penny 16 in the ounce	0	0	3½	27.344
The middling standard penny 20 in the ounce	0	0	2½	21.875
The small penny 24 in the ounce	0	0	2¼	18.229
The gold solid of the Greek Emperors, called the gold mancus	0	8	11½	71.428
The gold solid of Charlemagne, also called the gold mancus	0	8	9½	70.
The denier of Louis the Debonnaire, called the sceata	0	0	3	26.25

For

For the more easy conversion of great sums, the following rule is added,

16 great pounds,	}	are equal to L. 55 present Sterling money.
20 small pounds,		
24 great marks,		
30 small marks,		
160 mancuses of silver,		
1280 Thrimses,	}	each equal to 55 pence present Sterling money.
One ora or ounce,		
16 great pennies,		
20 middling pennies,		
24 small pennies,		
10 gold mancuses before Charlemagne, equal to	-	L. 4 9 2½
10 ditto after Charlemagne,	-	4 8 0
10 sceatas,	-	0 2 9

“ Before the conquest, English money was computed by the
 “ pound, mark, mancus, ora, shilling, thrims, and penny. They
 “ had three different pennies, two different money pounds, and two
 “ different marks; but only one mancus, one ora, one shilling, and
 “ one thrims. They had no coins larger than the pennies; all the
 “ rest being denominations of money. But as it was inconvenient to
 “ have different pennies passing together, Edward the Confessor
 “ made a law, as Edgar had done before him, that only one kind of
 “ money should be current in the kingdom. *Praeterea Statuimus*
 “ *ut unus per omnem ditionem nostram atque idem sit nummus**. The
 “ same money was still current in the time of Henry I. as appears
 “ by the following article in his charter of liberties. *Monetarium*
 “ *commune quod capiebatur per civitates vel comitatus, quod non fuerat*
 “ *tempore*

* Selden's Analect. Brit. lib. 2. chap. 5.

“ *tempore Edwardi regis, hoc ne a modo fiat omnino defendo**. Here
 “ all money is prohibited except what was allowed to pass by
 “ Edward.

“ What this money was, appears partly from Domesday-book,
 “ which was begun in the Conqueror’s time, and finished about a
 “ year before his death. It contains an account of the value of
 “ the lands, goods, and chattles of his subjects; and Sir Harry
 “ Spelman, who had perused it, tells us, that the pound commonly
 “ mentioned in it, is called the *libra denariorum de 20 in ora*†, that
 “ is, in the ounce; for ora or ore was the Danish name for ounce.
 “ Hence we find, that the ounce contained 20 of the common
 “ pennies then current; and Alfric Grammaticus, who was the
 “ Confessor’s cotemporary, says of the same money; *libra in Latin,*
 “ *is pound in English, five pennies make one shilling, and thirty pen-*
 “ *nies one mancus*‡; hence we find, that the mancus was six shil-
 “ lings. And since the ounce contained 20 pennies, and the shilling
 “ five, the ounce has been four shillings; and consequently, the
 “ mancus one ounce and a half.

“ As to the two pounds, one of them is determined from
 “ Canute’s third law, where it is said, *That he who breaks the*
 “ *King’s peace in a head church, is to forfeit V pounds; if in a second*
 “ *rate church, CXX shillings; if in a less church, where there is a*
 “ *church-yard, LX shillings; if in a country church, where there is*
 “ *no church-yard, XXX shillings*§. Here then is a regular progres-
 “ sion; the third mulct is double the fourth, the second is double
 “ the third, and therefore the first, or five pounds, must be double
 “ the

* Matthew Paris, anno 1100.

† Glossary in voce libra.

‡ Chron. pretiosum, p. 53. Lond. 1745.

§ Ib. p. 23.

“ the second, which is 120 shillings; hence it follows, that five
 “ pounds were 240 shillings, or one pound 48 shillings, that is 12
 “ ounces, since the ora or ounce was four shillings.

“ According to the Textus Roffensis cited by Dr Hicks in his Differ-
 “ tatio Epistolaris, *a ceorle’s weregild is by the Mercian law 66 shillings;*
 “ *a thane’s weregild is six times as much, or XII hundred shillings;*
 “ *the king’s weregild is as much as the weregild of six thanes, that*
 “ *is, XXX thousand sceatas, which is in all CXX pounds**. Here a
 “ thane’s weregild is 1200 shillings, the king’s weregild is six times
 “ as much, or 7200 shillings, and this is said to make in all 120
 “ pounds; so consequently this pound is 60 shillings, or 15 ounces,
 “ since the ounce was 4 shillings. Bishop Fleetwood, from whom
 “ I have taken these two passages, seems unwilling to admit that the
 “ English before the conquest had a pound of 60 shillings. He is
 “ inclined to think that the king’s weregild is by mistake called 120
 “ pounds, instead of 150; for if this last number of pounds were
 “ equal to 7200 shillings, then indeed the pound would come out
 “ 48 shillings. But, laying aside the king’s weregild altogether, the
 “ thing may be proved from the weregild of a thane, which by the
 “ Mercian law is said to be 1200 shillings; because in the eighth
 “ law of the Conqueror are the following words: *Wera Thani XX*
 “ *librae in Merciorum lege*†. So that 20 pounds are equal to 1200
 “ shillings, and the pound to 60 shillings, or 15 ounces as before.
 “ And further, it appears from what the Bishop himself cites from
 “ the laws of Ethelred, that they had a pound of 15 ounces: *Let*
 “ *those who overlook the ports, see that every weight at the market*
 “ *be the weight by which my money is received, and let each of them*
 “ *be marked so that 15 oras make a pound*‡. Now this pound of 15
 “ ounces

* Chron. pretiosum, p. 22. Lond. 1745.

† Helden’s notes on Eadmer, p. 1644. vol. ii. London 1726.

‡ Chron. pret. p. 25.

“ ounces contained 60 shillings, and the pound of 12 ounces 48
“ shillings.

“ Camden tells us from the Abbey book of Burton, that 20 oras
“ were rated at two marks of silver *, and therefore this mark was
“ 10 ounces; and that they had another mark of eight ounces, I
“ infer from the twelfth chapter of the laws of Edward the Confessor,
“ where it is said, *manbote in denelaga de villano et sakeman 12 oras,*
“ *de liberis autem hominibus tres marcas †*; the *manbote* was a mulct
“ to be paid to the Lord by those who killed any of the people be-
“ longing to him; and if we suppose that of a freeman to be double
“ of what was paid for the villanus, we shall have three marks
“ equal to 24 ounces, and the mark equal to eight ounces. We
“ cannot suppose it triple, because that would make three marks
“ equal to 36 ounces, and the mark 12 ounces, which is a pound;
“ and much less can we suppose it to be more. Therefore the
“ English had before the Conquest two marks, one of 10 ounces,
“ which was two thirds of the pound of 15 ounces, and one of eight
“ ounces, which was two thirds of the pound of 12 ounces. And
“ we may observe, that since the *mancus* was six shillings, or one
“ ounce and a half, the pound of 15 ounces was equal to 10 man-
“ cuses, and the pound of 12 ounces equal to eight mancuses.

“ The Normans who were not acquainted with the way of rec-
“ koning the old English money, fell into several blunders in their
“ histories, and in transcribing the old laws; and generally substi-
“ tuted the word *mark* for *mancus*. Thus in the laws of Henry I.
“ 30 shillings are made equal to five marks, and 120 shillings to
“ 20 marks ‡. But since the *mancus* was six shillings, the 30 shil-
“ lings

* Remains chap. of money.

† Spelman in v. ora.

‡ Chron. pretios. p. 29.

“ lings make five mancuses, and the 120 shillings make 20 man-
“ cuses. So in both these examples the word *mark* is erroneously
“ put instead of the *mancus*. It is said in Domesday-book, that
“ when the King crossed the sea against his enemies, it was the cus-
“ tom of Warwick, either to send him four sailors, or four pounds
“ of money*; that is, one pound for each. And Matthew of
“ Westminster says, that Hardicanute gave eight marks to every
“ sailor, and ten marks to every master of a ship †. Here again
“ the *mark* is put for the *mancus*; and the ten mancuses which the
“ masters got were the pound of 60 shillings, and the eight man-
“ cuses to the sailors were the pound of 48 shillings. This agrees
“ with what was said before; for, if the people of Warwick did not
“ send four sailors, they were obliged to pay one pound for each,
“ that is, as much they could be hired for; only in Domesday-book
“ it is called a pound, and in Matthew of Westminster it is called
“ eight marks, by mistake for eight mancuses, which are equal to
“ the pound of 48 shillings.

“ The law which I have cited from the *Textus Roffensis*, is one
“ of Æthelstan's; there it is said, that *a ceorle's weregild is by the*
“ *Mercian law 200 shillings*; but in the manuscript in the Cotton
“ library it stands, *ceorles weregildum CCLXVI thrimfa, id est, ducentos*
“ *solidos, secundum legem mercenorum*; and in the Saxon copy a
“ *ceorles weregild is 267 thrimfes*, by the law of the Danes ‡.
“ Whether it be a law of the Danes or Mercians I shall not inquire,
“ it is sufficient for my purpose, that 200 shillings are stated at 266
“ or 267 thrimfes. From this it follows, that the thrim was to the
“ shilling, as three is to four; so that 200 shillings make exactly
“ 266 thrimfes, and two thirds over. Now, since three shillings
“ are

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* Selden *mare clausum*, lib. ii. chap. xi.

† Id. *ibid.*

‡ Spelman in voce *Thrimfa*.

“ are equal to four thrimfes, the mancus being six shillings will be
 “ equal to eight thrimfes.

“ I have shewn that the common pennies current at the time of
 “ the conquest, were the fifth part of the shilling, or the twentieth
 “ part of the ounce; and now I shall shew what the other two
 “ pennies were.

“ In the twelfth chapter of the laws of Edward the Confessor,
 “ we have the following account: *Danigeldi redditio propter pyra-*
 “ *tas, primitus statuta est. Patriam enim infestantes vastatione ejus*
 “ *pro posse suo infestebant. Ad eorum quidem insolentiam reprimendam,*
 “ *statutum est, danigeldum annuatim reddi, scilicet, duodecim denarios*
 “ *pro unaquaque hida totius patriae, ad conducendum eos qui pyra-*
 “ *tarum irruptioni resistendo obviarent.* And, in the 16th chapter of
 “ the laws of Henry I. *Danigeldum, quod aliquando ymgeman daba-*
 “ *tur, id est, duodecim denarii de unaquaque hida per annum.* So in
 “ both these laws the danigeld is said to be twelve pennies on every
 “ hide of land.

“ But in the Black-book of the Exchequer, *ad hos (Danos) igi-*
 “ *tur arcendos a Regibus Anglicis statutum est, ut de singulis hidis*
 “ *jure quodam perpetuo duo solidi argentei solverentur in usus virorum*
 “ *fortium, qui perlustrantes et jugiter excubantes maritima, impetum*
 “ *hostium reprimerent. Quia igitur principaliter pro Danis institutus*
 “ *est hic redditus, danegeldum vel danegeldus dicitur.* And Hary
 “ of Huntingdom, writing of King Stephen, has the following
 “ words: *Novit quod danegeldum, id est, duos solidos ad hidam, quos*
 “ *antecessores sui singulis annis accipiebant, in aeternum condonaret*.*
 “ According to this author, and the Black-book of the Exchequer,
 “ the

* Spelman in voce Danegeldum.

“ the danegeld was two shillings, but it was also twelve pennies by
 “ the laws of Edward and Henry I.; and therefore, six of these
 “ pennies made a shilling, and consequently there were 24 the
 “ ounce.

“ Spelman gives the following passage: *Placita coram concilio*
 “ *domini Regis Term. Mich. 37 Hen. 3. Rot. 4. Suff. Johanna Dea-*
 “ *konii attachiata fuit ad respondendum hominibus de Berkholt, quare*
 “ *exigit ab eis alia servicia quae, &c. unde dicit quod tempore Regis*
 “ *Hen. avi Regis solebant habere talem consuetudinem, quod quando*
 “ *maritare volebant filias suas, solebant dare, pro filiabus suis mari-*
 “ *tandis, duas horas, quae valent triginta duos denarios*.* Hence
 “ we find that two horas, or two ounces, were equal to 32 pennies,
 “ or the ounce equal to 16; and therefore the shilling was equal to
 “ four of these pennies.

“ I have now shewn that the English before the conquest had
 “ three different pennies; the smallest kind were six in the shilling,
 “ or 24 in the ounce, the middling kind were five in the shilling,
 “ or 20 in the ounce, and the greatest were four in the shilling, or
 “ 16 in the ounce.

“ Besides the denominations of money already given, we find
 “ that sums were frequently reckoned by the gold mancus. Thus,
 “ when Ina King of the West Saxons invaded Kent, he made them
 “ pay him thirty thousand mancuses of gold †. And a certain mi-
 “ nister of King Ethelred, called Ulfric Spot, built the abbacy of
 “ Burton, and endowed it with all his paternal inheritance, which
 “ was

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* Spelman in voce Marchet.

† Cambden's remains, chap. of money.

“ was valued at seven hundred pounds : And to get this donation ra-
 “ tified, he gave to the King three hundred mancuses of gold, and
 “ five to each of the Bishops ; and the estate of Dumbleton to Alfric
 “ Archbishop of Canterbury *.

“ The value of the gold mancus, in silver money, is found from
 “ Canute’s law about the heregeat or hereot, which was a certain
 “ proportion of money, horses, arms, and accoutrements, to be fur-
 “ nished by the King’s vassals, when they attended him in his wars ;
 “ but I shall only mention the money, the rest not being to my pur-
 “ pose. The English are divided into three ranks, namely, the Earls,
 “ the King’s Thanes of the first rank, and the inferior Thanes. The
 “ first paid 200 mancuses of gold, the second 50 mancuses of gold,
 “ and the third two pounds. Therefore, as the first is quadruple
 “ the second, so must the second or 50 mancuses be quadruple the
 “ third or two pounds ; from which it follows, that 50 mancuses of
 “ gold were rated at eight pounds of silver. This is confirmed by
 “ the hereot of the Danes, who were divided into three ranks of
 “ Thanes. The first paid 50 mancuses of gold, the second four
 “ pounds, and the third two pounds : Therefore, as four pounds are
 “ double of two pounds, so must 50 mancuses be double of four
 “ four pounds ; that is, eight pounds, as it was found before †. And
 “ we may remember that Canute’s pound was 48 shillings, or 12
 “ ounces ; and consequently 50 mancuses of gold were valued at 96
 “ ounces of silver.

“ There was no gold coined in England till long after the con-
 “ quest ; and therefore the gold mancus was a foreign coin. But, af-
 “ ter

* Selden’s *Janus Angl.* lib. ii. p. 101 11.

† Spelman in voce *Herotum*.

“ ter Constantine the Great introduced the solid, there was no other
 “ gold coin used all over the Roman empire, except the semisses and
 “ tremisses, which were only subdivisions of the solid. And it was
 “ not only coined by the Franks, under the first race of their kings,
 “ but by other northern nations, after they had conquered some of
 “ the Roman provinces ; such as, the Burgundians, the Goths in
 “ Spain, and the Lombards in Italy. To the Roman solid, Charle-
 “ magne’s solid succeeded, and became as universal in his wide ex-
 “ tended empire, as the other had been before. And the French
 “ continued to reckon money by it, till some time after Hugh
 “ Capet.

“ From what has been said, it appears, that it was the gold solid
 “ which the English called the gold mancus ; but with this distinc-
 “ tion, that it was the Roman solid till the institution of Charle-
 “ magne’s new pound, and his solid afterwards.

“ Thus, the mancuses which Ina got from the Kentish men, were
 “ Roman solids ; because his expedition into Kent was in the year
 “ 694, which was before Charlemagne’s reign : But the gold man-
 “ cuses above mentioned, in the time of Ethelred and Canute, were
 “ Charlemagne’s solids ; because both of them lived after his time.

By many undeniable proofs, drawn from the comparing of the
 weights of Rome, of Charlemagne, and of English coins, it appears
 very evident, that the averdupois ounce was that made use of in the
 English mint before the conquest ; although the pound of 16 such
 ounces was not introduced till long afterwards. And, in the preced-
 ing table of the value and weight of English money, it may be obser-
 ved, that the ora or ounce stands rated at 437.5 grains troy, which is
 the exact weight of one ounce averdupois ; or the sixteenth part of

7000 troy

7000 troy grains, which is the exact weight of one averdupois pound of 16 ounces.

We have seen, that, by the Mercian law, the King's wergild, or the mulct for his slaughter, was thirty thousand sceatas, or 120 great pounds: Now, whether we reckon by the pounds or by the sceatas, the wergild comes to be, according to the table of conversion, L. 412 : 10s. present Sterling money. This sum was paid to the King's relations, and as much more was paid to the public. Thus, the King's whole wergild was, by the Mercian law, L. 825 present Sterling money.

But, by the law of the Angles, the King's whole wergild was thirty thousand thrimfes, which make, according to the table, L. 1289 : 1 : 3 Sterling.

The Danes before the conquest made several inroads upon England, and extorted large contributions. Florentius Vigornensis rates them at the following sums of old English money.

In the year 991 they extorted from them	10,000 pounds.
In 994 - - - - -	16,000
In 1002 - - - - -	24,000
In 1007 - - - - -	36,000
In 1009 - - - - -	3,000
In 1012 - - - - -	48,000
In 1014 - - - - -	30,000
In all	167,000

Now, if we suppose these to have been small pounds, of 48 shillings or 12 ounces averdupois, the sum will be L. 459,250 Sterling.
And

And if we reckon them great pounds, of 60 shillings or 15 ounces, it will be L. 574,062 : 10 s. Sterling.

It has been said that Ulfric Sprot, when he endowed the abbacy of Burton, gave King Ethelred 300 mancufes of gold, and five mancufes to each of the bishops. The 300 were worth L. 132 Sterling, and the five to the bishops make L. 2 : 4 s. Sterling.

When the King, before the conquest, crossed the seas on an expedition against his enemies, it was the custom of Warwick either to send him four sailors or four pounds in money, one pound for each. This was the pound of 12 ounces, value L. 2 : 15 s. Sterling. Hardicanute gave the same wages to his sailors; and to every master of a ship, ten mancufes of silver or 60 shillings. This was a great pound, value L. 3 : 8 : 9. And the people of Berkholt were obliged to pay two oras or ounces, that is, eight shillings of old money, or 9 s. 2 d. present Sterling, upon the marriage of their daughters, which was called the *marchetta mulieris*.

The danegeld was two shillings, or one-half ounce, that is, 2 s. 3½ d. Sterling, on every hide of land; that is, on as much as one plough could labour.

The romescot or denarius S. Petri, is commonly said to have been one penny paid by every house in England. The whole of Peter's pence is said to have amounted to 300 merks or 200 pounds, at the time when Sterling money was introduced into England; that is, after the conquest, which in present Sterling is about L. 621. A trifling tribute, and a mark of a very scanty population in those days.

The old English pound of the merchants, called *libra mercatoria*, is frequently defined, in the Norman time, by the pound of 25 shillings.

lings Sterling. Now, as 20 shillings Sterling were 12 ounces, 25 shillings must be 15 ounces. So this old *libra mercatoria* was 15 ounces troy weight, as the great money pound was 15 ounces averdupois.

By this *libra mercatoria* they composed their charre or cart-load, which consisted of 2100 of these pounds, and was subdivided in the following manner :

- 12 Pounds made their stone.
- $5\frac{1}{2}$ Stones made their fodmel.
- 30 Fodmels made their charre, sometimes called Carrus or Carrata.

Another subdivision of this Charre was as follows :

- $12\frac{1}{2}$ Pounds made their stone.
- 14 Stones made a wey.
- 12 Wey made a charre.

From this awkward subdivision of their charre, it is very plain that it had never been established according to any natural proportion to this English pound of 15 ounces troy weight ; and it is by investigating the proportion of different weights, that the true origin of this charre is discovered to be no other than the Paris ton weight or 20 quintals.

The troy pound is to this English merchant pound, as 12 is to 15, or as 4 is to 5 : And it is to the Paris pound as 16 is to 21. Consequently the pound of the merchants is to the Paris pound, as 20 is to 21.

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The charre, therefore, or the English cart-load, being 2100 merchant pounds, must be equal to 2000 Paris pounds, or to 20 quintals, which make their ton.

The strongest confirmation of this conjecture is found from an ancient manuscript containing an account of the estate and expences of the abbacy of Bello Loco or Bewly in Hampshire, for the year 1270 ; where it is said, *That the English merchants reckoned 21 of their pounds to the score.* This made their reckoning correspond exactly with the Paris score of 20 pounds.

Now, although this charre be really the Paris ton, the subdivision of it by stones and fodmels are English denominations, and answer without fractions to the averdupois weight : Thus,

- 12 Averdupois pounds make the stone.
- 6 Stones make the Fodmel.
- 30 Fodmels, one charre.

So one charre contains 30 fodmels, 180 stones, and 2160 averdupois pounds. In like manner the charre contains 12 wey, 180 stones, and 2160 averdupois pounds, as before.

Next, the averdupois pound is to this merchant pound, as 35 is to 36 : And 35 is to 36, as 2100 is to 2160. From this it may be concluded, that this charre was originally a French weight ; that the subdivision of it has been by the averdupois pound ; but that the Normans have confused it by the introduction of their troy weight.