

NORWICH TRADERS' AND CITY TOKENS

Of the Seventeenth Century.

BY

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WHEN we take into our hands the insignificant and poorly impressed disc of metal, issued by a tavern keeper or "taverner" of Norwich, in 1651, who gives his initials on his token T. M. T., thinking himself probably so well known in his own city that his memory was likely to survive as long as his farthing, we do not reflect that this and other pieces of the same character then and for some time after passing current, were the representatives of as sturdy and uncompromising an opposition to authority, as this country ever exhibited. Yet such is the fact. The determination, to extinguish the local coinage which had appeared in many towns of the kingdom,—the Mint at the same time having made no provision for the issue of copper money as small change, except for currency in Ireland,—continued down to the year 1672; and the number of persons who suffered the punishment of the pillory, who paid fines, and who expiated the offence of making and distributing leaden, brass, or copper tokens for the purposes of commerce, was so large, that the amount of individual suffering would create astonishment could it be made known. This popular resolution to resist, arose because the right of public issue of small copper money was bestowed upon court favorites, who became enriched at

the public expense. Patents were in fact given to persons, conferring the privilege of issuing coin of this description, such pieces not being equal in intrinsic value to the amount for which they were stamped to be current. The traders considered that if debasement of value was allowed by patent, and without reference to national law, a public injustice was thereby committed, and so determined to circumvent the enrichment of individuals by resorting to the same practise the King had allowed his favorites to follow.

It must here be observed, that the earliest Norwich Traders' Token of which we have present knowledge, is dated 1651. The contest, however, of which we speak commenced as early as the year 1615, in opposition to the patent issued April 10th of that year to Lord John Harrington of Exton, in the county of Rutland. The coin issued under patent authority was derisively called "Harringtons;" and the mode adopted for putting the pieces into circulation, was by sending parcels to Mayors and Sheriffs of cities and towns, with a letter stating that twenty-one shillings in the copper coinage would be given for twenty shillings of the coin of the realm, and two shillings on every twenty if payment was made in two months.

Afterwards the patent descended to Lady Harrington; then to Ludovick Stuart, Duke of Richmond; James, Marquis of Hamilton; Thomas Howard; Henry Howard, (1635-6). It was not until 1672, by which time "royal farthings" were issued of the same intrinsic value as the amount for which they were circulated, that the issue of tokens by private traders was effectually put down. The Traders' Token contention, while it lasted, shook the "world of England." The government fulminated, the pillory groaned, and the poets and dramatists of the time made especial and significant allusion to the condition and issue of tokens in their works.

But although, as far as the writer is acquainted with the subject, no specimen of the early token which first made war

against the "Harrington" has survived as regards this city, entries exist in the municipal records connected with its appearance. The memoranda now given were taken from that prolific source of local history by the indefatigable Kirkpatrick, whom no Norfolk archæologist can name without expressing thankfulness for what this antiquary has collected towards the history of our ancient city. He prefaces his gleanings in the matter by saying that *leaden* tokens were in pretty general circulation in this place, in the year 1617. What follows, relates to the peculiar mode of introducing Harringtons, to which allusion has already been made, by which the Mayors and Sheriffs of cities were made the channel through which the community were deceived, and private patentees enriched.

Kirkpatrick says:—

"Dec^r. 20, 1617. This day Edward Nouell delivered into court, thirty pounds in farthing tokens, w^h are delivered over to Thomas Blomfield to be disposed of.

"Touching the Farthing Tokens then issuing, it is thought fit the warrants shall be made to the Aldermen of the several Wards of the city, to take care of the same according to his Majesty's Proclamation. Aug^t. 18, 1618.

"June or July, 1620. Tho^s. Garret, gent., one of the Deputy Patentees for the Farthings, desireth that Mr. Mayor w^d appoint a person for the putting forth and exchanging Farthing Tokens; he to have 12^d in the pound for his pains.

"March 22, 162 $\frac{2}{3}$. Farthing Tokens this day delivered to Mr. Ald. Claxton, 4s. 6^d.; Ald. Blossse, 5s.; Ald. Rosse, 5s.; D^r. Mingay, 5s.; Ald. Cock, 5s.; Ald. Tho^s. Marston, 5s.; Sheriff Emes, 5s.; Ald. Hornesey, 5s.; and there is this day deliv^d to Thomas Blomfield 31 papers, in every paper 5s. 4^d., to be distributed to the Aldermen and Common Council men.

“In 1623. Ten pounds in Farthing Tokens were del^d, whereof 15s. are delivered to Ald. Shipdham, and Thomas Blomfield confesses that he holds the rest; and Mr. Will^m Shipdham promiseth the exchange of the Tokens.

“Dec^r. 1628. It is ordered that some course be taken to make the multitude of Farthing Tokens to appear a greavance to the common wealth, so that redress be had therein.

“Ap^l. 30, 1634. A Commission from his Majesty not to receive any more counterfeit Farthing Tokens, but that all warranted Tokens were still to pay.

“Ap^l. 30, 1634. Morgan Child says he pays £7. or £8. per week in Farthings, many of w^h are counterfeits.

“John Kettle says he hath £30. in Farthing tokens. He is admonished not to take or pay counterfeits.”

The latter extracts shew that the Corporation were impressed with the fact, that the counterfeits and patent farthing tokens had become an especial grievance, which the general community desired to see remedied by a legal issue of copper coinage by the State, unconnected with mere patents. This failing, the respectable body of traders, as we see, took the law into their own hands, and coined for themselves.

Referring to the later issues of tokens—those of traders commencing in Norwich with 1651—researches have produced to us at least eighty-nine examples, exclusive of farthings issued by the city authorities.

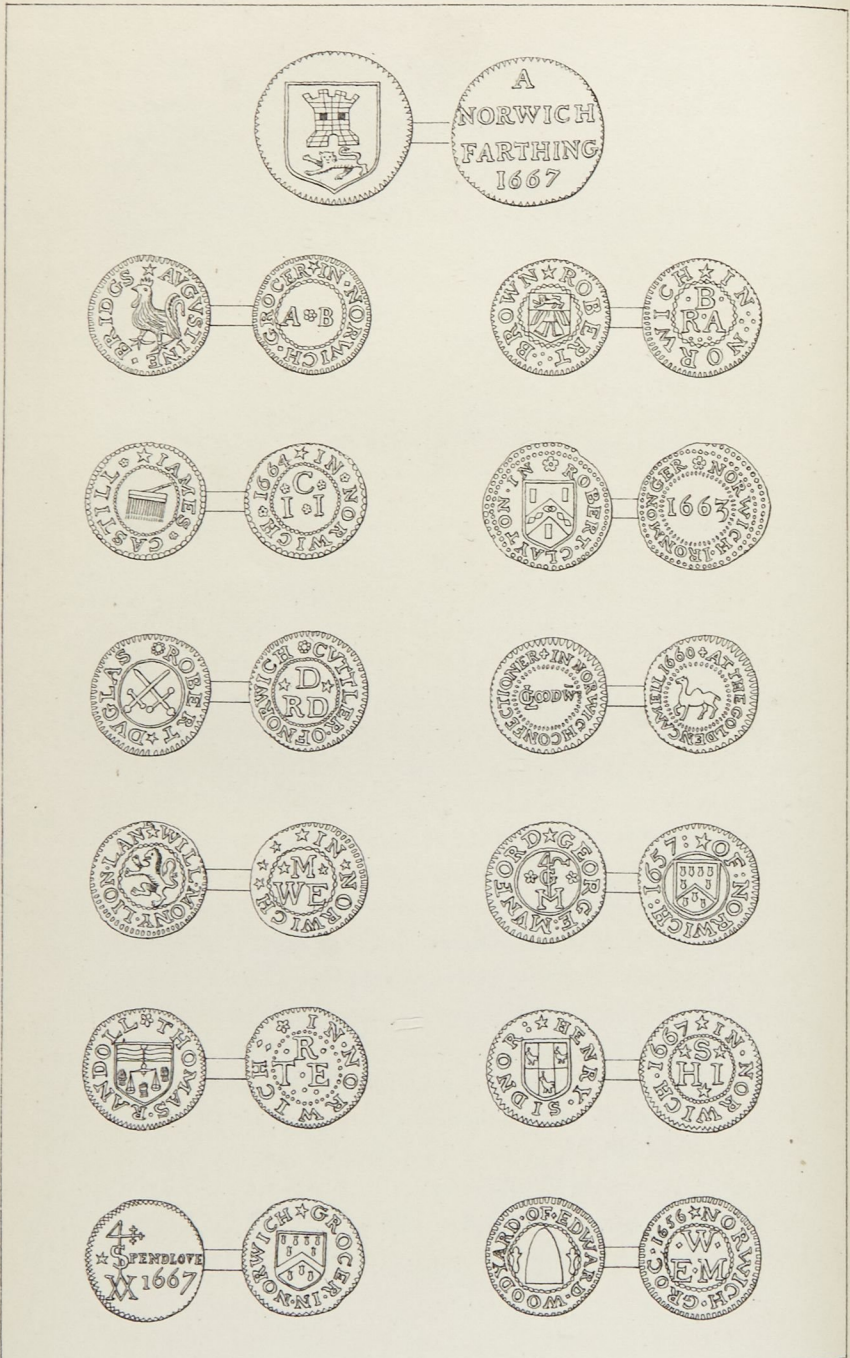
The list of these tokens includes the following trades and separate occupations, at least as far as the devices upon the pieces will allow us to distinguish them. Those necessary to make up the total carry upon them distinctions which may refer to tavern signs, or arbitrary emblems without especial reference.

Of Grocers' Tokens, bearing either the arms of the Grocers' Company or such devices as designate the same occupation, there are 29

Fruiterers	1
Locksmiths	1
Hosiers	1
Merchant Tailors	1
Wool Combers	3
Ironmongers	1
Cutlers	1
Confectioners	1
Dyers	1
Bricklayers	1
Worstead Weavers.	1
Chandlers	2
Haberdashers	1
Bakers	1
Oatmeal Makers	1

It will be seen that the most numerous issuers of these Traders' Tokens were those who followed the occupation of grocers; indeed the majority of such traders over others in the city at the period in question appears enormous. The number of grocers, as issuers of tokens, may be accounted for by the popularity and wide extension of the Grocers' Company of the Metropolis, "foreign members," as non-residents in London were termed, being scattered in all the large towns of the kingdom; and, secondly, the opportunity of circulating small coin as change being greater with grocers than with any other occupation, excepting those great public accommodators known as innkeepers or taverners.

We must not suppose, however, that although many of the Norwich traders bore the grocers' arms on their tokens, they were strictly such as are called grocers in our own day. Grocers, at the period these tokens now under consideration were issued, included druggists, tobacconists, tobacco cutters,



Edw. Kite, del. et anastat.

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and even apothecaries. These occupations, with the exception of the last, are duly recognized in the laws of the Grocers' Company, and are especially mentioned in their charters of James II., William and Mary, and, indeed, down to the time of George I. We may refer to another proof that the grocers were a large community in this city, by stating, that the grocers' device may be seen on many monuments erected to Norwich citizens of the eighteenth century, in various churches of the city. Among the fine carving on the backs of the corporate seats in the Council Chamber in the Guildhall, the same coat is conspicuous. There are also instances where the grocers' shield is placed among the stained glass in church windows; the east window of Saint Andrew's church for instance, where it is repeated not less than four times. This is a proof, if proof be necessary, that the grocers or "pepperers," as they were called, were not only numerous but wealthy, and able and willing to adorn most meetly the house of God with the badge of that occupation they had followed honestly and honourably, let us hope, in the city wherein they dwelt.

List of Tokens issued by Norwich Traders.

- O. JAMES . ARBREE = 1667.
 R. IN . NORWICH = I . M . A
 O. JOHN . ATWOOD = I . K . A
 R. IN . NORWICH = I . K . A
 O. MICHAELL . BAKER = 1667.
 R. OF . NORWICH = M . A . B
 O. JAMES . BARTON = The Fruiterers' Arms.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = I . E . B
 O. VIOLET . BENTON = A key.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = V . R . B
 O. JOHN . BLAND = A stocking, above it a small r.
 R. IN . NORWICH = I . M . B

The small letter r on the obverse of this token is the initial of Thomas Rawlings, who had been chief engraver of the Royal Mint. Excluded from official employment during the Commonwealth, he fell into great poverty, and took to engraving Dies for Tokens, many of which have his initial on them.

O. PEETER . BLOFIELD = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = P . B

O. AVGVSTINE . BRIGDS = A cock.

R. IN . NORWICH . GROCER = A . B [*See plate.*]

Augustine Briggs was Sheriff in 1660, and Mayor of Norwich in 1670; he was elected Member for the City in 1677, and three times afterwards: he died in 1684.

O. JAMES . BROCKDEN = A castle.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = I . R . B

He was Sheriff in 1679.

O. JOHN . BROWNE = A swan.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1657 = I . S . B

O. ROBERT . BROWN = The Merchant-Tailors' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = R . A . B [*See plate.*]

O. EDWARD . BVXTON = The Grocers' Arms.

R. OF . NORWICH . 1653 = E . A . B

O. EDMVND . CAMOND = The Grocers' Arms.

R. OF . NORWICH . GROCER = E . C

O. JAMES . CASTILL = A wool-comb.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = I . I . C

O. JAMES . CASTLE = 1662.

R. IN . NORWICH = I . I . C [*See plate.*]

O. ROBERT . CLAYTON . IN = The Ironmongers' Arms.

R. NORWICH . IRONMONGER = 1663. [*See plate.*]

Robert Clayton was Sheriff in 1672, and died the same year.

O. WILLIAM . COOPER . OF = The King's head crowned.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1662 = A full-blown rose.

O. ISAAC . COWPER . BRICK = A trowel.

R. LAYER . IN . NORWICH = I . E . C

O. PEETER . DEALE = A helmet.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = P . A . D

O. ABRAHAM . DERRIX = A pine-apple.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1665 = A . I . D

O. JAMES . DOVER = 1667.

R. IN . NORWICH = I . D

O. ROBERT . DVGLAS = Two swords crossed.

R. CVTLER . OF . NORWICH = R . D . D [*See plate.*]

O. FRANCIS . ELMER = Three foxes.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = F . G . E

O. ROBERT . EMPEROR = A sword erect.

R. OF . NORWICH = R . E . E

O. THOMAS . FERRIER = A heart on the stem of an anchor.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = T . F

- O. THOMAS . FLATMAN = 1664.
 R. OF . NORWICH = T . F
- O. RICHARD . FREEMAN = A dove with olive-branch.
 R. OF . NORWICH . 1657 = R . F
- O. IN . NORWICH . CONFECTIONER = L. GOODWY [n].
 R. AT . THE . GOLDEN . CAMELL . 1660 = A camel. [See plate.]
- O. THOMAS . GREENE . IN = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. NORWICH . 1658 = T . S . G
- O. BENIAMEN . GREENWOOD = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = B . E . G
- O. GEORGE . HALL. (In two lines across the field.)
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = The Grocers' Arms.
- O. ELIZ . HALFKNIGHT = The Dyers' Arms.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = E . H conjoined.
- O. EDWARD . HARDING = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. GROCER . IN . NORWICH = E . A . H
- O. THOMAS . HANSE = An anchor.
 R. OF . NORWICH . 1664 = T . E . H
- O. HENRY . HOLBEY . NEAR = A hand holding a dagger. 1659.
 R. REDWELL . IN . NORWICH = H . G . H
- O. NATHANAELL . HOWLET = The Arms of Norwich.
 R. WOS^D. [worsted] . WEAVER . IN . NORWICH = A merchant's
 mark.
- O. IOHN . HUTTON = The three legs of Man.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1657 = I . E . H
- O. EDWARD . HYRNE = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. OF . NORWICH . GROCER = E . M . H

The Hyrnes were a very old family in Norwich, and filled the offices of Sheriff and Mayor; one member bore the honour of Knighthood. They chiefly resided in Coslany parish.

- O. AT . Y^E . POST . OFFICE = 1661.
 R. IN . NORWICH = A leg. A . L

Probably the issuer's name was Legg: punning devices on the names are common. A leg is also the bearing on the Arms of the Legg family.

- O. IN . S . ANDREWES . PARRICH = T . D . L
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1653 = T . D . L
- O. THOMAS . LACEY = Cross keys.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = T . S . L
- O. WILLIAM . LAMBERT = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. GROCER . IN . NORWICH = W . A . L
- O. IOHN . LAWRENCE . 1658 = Seven stars.
 R. L . GOODWIN . IN . NORWICH = I . L and L . G

John Lawrence was Sheriff of Norwich in 1659, and Mayor in 1669.

O. JOHN . LEVERINGTON = I . V . L
R. IN . NORWICH = I . V . L

O. THOMAS . LINSTEAD . AT = The Grocers' Arms.
R. NORWICH . GROSER = T . L conjoined. 1659.

Buried in St. Andrew's.

O. THOMAS . LONG = The Grocers' Arms.
R. OF . NORWICH . 1657 = T . A . L

T . D . L. in St. Andrew's Parrich, in Norwich, 1653, T . D . L

Probably one of the Linsteads.

O. JOHN . MAYES = A man making candles.
R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = I . E . M

O. ANTHO . MINGAY
R. IN . NORWICH = A man and camel.

Anthony Mingay (son of John Mingay, Mayor of Norwich in 1617) gave two silver flagons, having on them the Mingay arms impaling the Cornwallis arms, to the church of St. Stephen, in Norwich.

O. WILL . MONY . LION . LANE = A lion rampant.
R. IN . NORWICH = W . E . M [See plate.]

O. RICHARD . MORANT = A neck whisk and two piccadillies.
R. IN . NORWICH = R . M

The design has also been supposed by some to represent a hank of yarn and two shuttles.

O. FRANCIS . MORLEY = The Grocers' Arms.
R. OF . NORWICH = F . M

O. ANN . MVNFORD = The Grocers' Arms.
R. IN . NORWICH = A . M

O. GEORGE . MVNFORD = A merchant's mark.
R. OF . NORWICH . 1657 = The Grocers' Arms. [See plate.]

O. THOMAS . NEWMAN = The Grocers' Arms.
R. IN . NORWICH = T . N

O. ELIAS . NORGAT = A Turk's head.
R. IN . NORWICH . 1660 = E . E . N

O. JOHN . OSBORN . OF = The Grocers' Arms.
R. NORWICH . GROSER = I . O conjoined.

He was Mayor of Norwich in 1661.

The Osborns were an old family resident in St. Peter's.

O. JOHN . PARKER = A sheep.
R. OF . NORWICH . 1665 = I . E . P

O. WILLIAM . PARMENTER = The Grocers' Arms.
R. IN . NORWICH . 1654 = W . S . P

He was Sheriff in 1676.

O. ISAAC . PEARCIVALE = An oak-tree.
R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = I . I . P

Certainly no Puritan, as may be seen by his badge or sign.

O. WILL . PLAYFORD = W . A . P

R. OF . NORWICH = W . A . P

O. DANIELL . PYCROFT = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = D . P

O. THOMAS . RANDALL = The Bakers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = T . E . R. [*See plate.*]

O. AVGVSTINE . RAYLEY = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = 1662.

O. THOMAS . RAYNER = The Grocer's Arms.

R. OF . NORWICH . 1653 = T . R

O. CHARLES . REEVE . 1664 . OF = NORWICH.

R. CHARLES . REEVE . 1664 . OF = NORWICH.

O. GEORGE . REEVE = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH = G . R . R

O. WILL . ROBINSON = A man in the moon.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1662 = W . E . R

O. JOHN . SHEPPARD = I . S conjoined.

R. IN . NORWICH . 16 . . . = I . S conjoined.

O. HENRY . SIDNOR = A greyhound running.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1659 = H . I . S

O. HENRY . SIDNOR = The Tallowchandlers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = H . I . S [*See plate.*]

Henry Sidnor was Sheriff of Norwich in 1661.

O. IONATHAN . SNOWDEN = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1660 = I . E . S

O. MATTHEW . SOVLTER = IN NORWICH.

R. OATMEALE . MAKER = M . B . S

O. N . SPENDLOVE . 1667. (Across the field.) A merchant's mark.

R. GROCCER . IN . NORWICH = The Grocers' Arms. [*See plate.*]

The Spendloves were resident in St. Peter's Hungate.

O. SAMVEL . STARLIN = Three rabbits.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1662 = S . S

O. JOHN . TABOR = A spade.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1663 = I . M . T

He was overseer of St. Martin at Oak, and on March 9th, 1656, planted in the churchyard the oak which was growing there when Blomefield wrote his History of Norfolk, 1745.

O. ROBERT . THARROLD = The Grocers' Arms.

R. GROCCER . IN . NORWICH = R . T

Buried in St. Saviour's.

O. WILLIAM . THVRTON = 1665.

R. OF . NORWICH = W . M . T

O. BENJAMIN . TOFT = The Grocers' Arms.

R. IN . NORWICH . 1664 = B . E . T

Buried in St. Clement's.

- O. DANEL . TOFT . GROCER = D . E . T
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1653 = D . E . T
 O. ROBERT . TOMPSON = A porteullis.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1652 = R . T
 O. IERIMY . VIN . OF = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. NORWICH . ANNO . 1657 = I . VYN.

Sheriff in 1676.

- O. JOHN . WARD = A woolpack.
 R. IN . NORWICH . 1667 = I . E . W
 O. THOMAS . WARNE = 1652.
 R. IN . NORWICH = T . I . W
 O. THOMAS . WARREN = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. OF . NORWICH = T . W conjoined.
 O. THOMAS . WELD . HATTER = 1657.
 R. OF . NORWICH = T . C . W
 O. WILLIAM . WITHERLEY = The Grocers' Arms.
 R. OF . NORWICH = W . W
 O. NICHOLAS . WITHERS = N . F . W
 R. OF . NORWICH . 1658 = N . F . W
 O. EDWARD . WOODYARD . OF = A sugar-loaf and two cloves.
 R. NORWICH . GROC . 1656 = E . M . W
 O. THOMAS . WORMALL = 1662.
 R. IN . NORWICH = T . I . W
 O. WILL . YOUNGEST = A wool-comb.
 R. IN . NORWICH = W . Y

This closes our list, which we have endeavoured to render as perfect as possible.

We have examined many muniments and papers belonging to the Corporation of Norwich, in the hope of discovering particulars of proceedings, instituted either by the corporate body or the government of the day, for the purpose of extinguishing the issue of Traders' Tokens. At present the search has been comparatively unsuccessful as regards Traders' money, although a series of entries exists relative to the tokens which the city authorities themselves thought proper to issue at the same period traders issued theirs. One entry relating to Traders' Tokens has, however, been found, and seems, if we regard its date, to be an order or recommendation promulgated by the Corporation for the purpose of checking the circulation, in conformity with the

expressed desire of the government; though it is singular to add that the Corporation became token issuers themselves in the next year.

“21st July, 1666. The Bellman to pclaim y^t y^e Tradesmen do refuse to take any farthings, except those that are of their own stamp, upon the penalty to be pceeded against according to law.”

The tokens issued by the city authorities in opposition to the Traders' money amounts to three only, and may be thus described :

O. A . NORWICH . FARTHING . 1667. (In four lines.) *(large $\frac{1}{4}$)*
 R. The Arms of the City of Norwich; in chief a castle, in base a lion passant gardant. [*See plate.*]

Another similar, dated 1668. *(large $\frac{1}{4}$)*

Another, dated 1670. *(large $\frac{1}{4}$)*

The devices, as seen, were of a very plain, though of an official, character; and it may be presumed the tokens were carried into circulation by an exchange with the citizens for the current coin of the realm. They also afforded a more official copper coinage of a local nature than the Traders' Tokens could by any possibility assume. We are not, however, acquainted with the token which bore “Civitas Norwici” on the reverse, as noted below.

The first entry gives us the precise date at which the Corporation enter upon the issue of tokens.

“28th September, 1667. That Charles Jay, Esq^r., at his being next in London, be desired to advise about the Coyninge of Farthings, with y^e City arms on one side and Civitas Norwici upon y^e other side, and certify to M^r. Maior.”

A few explanatory observations will tend to elucidate the application of the entries which follow.

It seems that Mr. Jay having visited the metropolis, and conferred with the fabricators of tokens, he is ordered to send

from London a certain quantity of copper farthings, and then two hundred-weight in addition. The Sir Joseph Paine mentioned below was a person of some note in the city, and among other offices held the command of the Train Bands. He died August 15th, 1668; and in the curious collection of local poems by Matthew Stevenson, known by the title of "Norfolk Drollery," will be found some elegiac stanzas to his memory. The knight lies buried in St. Gregory's church, where on the north side of the chancel is a curious mural monument recording his decease, and displaying in miniature the demi-armour with which Sir Joseph Paine encased himself when engaged in his military duties.

"14th Nov^r., 1667. Agreed y^t C. Jay, Esq^r. be sent to to send for two hundred weight of Farthings more, and y^t he take care y^t y^e stamp of y^e said Farthings be sent down. And Sir Jose. Paine have promised that his man in London shall pay £54. 10s. to him for the same."

The next memorandum gives us certain amounts paid for farthings by the magistrates, and the terms on which they were issued. They were officially circulated, and when called in by public authority the full value was given to those who held them, though the aggregate loss, if any, fell on the city generally. By this we may conclude that the magistrates were aware the issue of these farthings was not in conformity with the law, and were therefore ready to disarm public animadversion, and avoid penalty by promising restitution of loss to any who sustained it by reason of holding city tokens.

"4th Dec^r., 1667. Ordered y^e Bellman to give notice, y^t as many farthings, as by order of y^e Magistrates of this City, are appointed to be stamped with the City stamp, being for y^e value of one hundred pounds, whensoever they shall be called in by y^e Publique authority

of this Nation, y^t y^e Chamblin of this City shall take y^m at y^e same rate they are now put out at, y^e losse to be borne by the City."

The two next entries are of little moment, as they only relate to the supply of the second farthing—that of 1668.

"30th Sept^r., 1668. This day M^r. Maior paid £5. 3s. 4d. to M^r. Aldⁿ Jay for y^e charge of all Farthings sent from London.

"23rd Dec^r., 1668. The Town Clerk to write to M^r. Deering this post to send down y^e quantity of Farthings formerly wrot for, of pfect copper and no difference or distinction whatever, onely whereas in y^e former y^e year 1667, in these is to be 1668."

The following entry relates to a serious point in the history of farthings issued by local authorization. An Order in Council had been promulgated, rendering the further circulation of this species of coinage illegal, and no doubt the city of Norwich had incurred a penalty in conjunction with other places where similar issues had been made. Lord Townshend is requested to interpose his good offices on behalf of a pardon, and his efforts appear to be effectual, the result being communicated officially. The city was fortunate in the conclusion of this business, as Bristol and Gloucester were fined for the same offence.

"3rd Sept., 1670. A L^r Rec^d from M^r. Deering, Solicitor to the City, concerning y^e order in Council about Farthings.

"10th Sept^r. A L^r sent to the L^d Townshend abt the same.

"24th Sept^r. A L^r from the L^d Lieut. of Norff., wherein his Ldship signified his Ma^y was graciously pleased to pardon the city for causing Farthings to be made and vended."

Perhaps, however, this pardon was obtained according to the notion of the local authorities with too much ease; for the

next entry shews they felt desirous of continuing the issue of farthings, urging absolute necessity as the reason. The plea however had no avail, as will be seen. The city farthings were withdrawn, and a Jew dealer in metals purchases the entire stock.

“26th Oct^r., 1670. A Petiçon to be presented to y^e King in Councill, setting forth y^e absolute necessity of y^e continuing of the Farthings put forth by the city, till his Ma^{tie} pvide some publique remedy.

“25 Sept., 1672. One of the Sergeants at Mace ordered to publish at the Cross, next Saturday, y^e Act of Assembly for y^e taking in of Farthings.

“28th Sept. Ordered that Mr. Chamberlain and his assistant do in y^e Exchange of Farthings not exceed £5. in silver, nor take above 12^d in Farthings of any person.

“4th Sept., 1672. Ten hundred a quarter and Twenty pounds weight of Norwich Farthings sold to Mr. Melchior. Such as are wholly copper at 11^d per pound, and such of them as are mixed metal at 9^d per lb. In all £48., y^e odd 7s. 8^d. being —

“18th Jan^r., 167²/₃. The Clavells appointed to receive £48. 10s. of Mr. Melchior. And y^t they pay unto y^e Chamblin £153. 8s. 10¹/₄^d., to satisfy such psons as bo^t in Norwich Farthings, to be forthwith paid to s^d persons.”

Here the entries with which we are at present acquainted respecting Norwich Tokens cease. Those produced shew, as we have observed, the resolution of the city authorities to issue tokens in a corporate capacity, and the quantity struck to their order in London, most probably at the Token-house in Token-house Yard, the locality of the manufacture. We also gather, that the city of Norwich like other places had been fined for contravening the law and issuing tokens, but had been pardoned, and that the Corporate Tokens superseded the Traders' Tokens, at least no trader appears to have issued

a new token after the appearance of the City Token of 1667, although several came out in that year. We must presume, in the absence of particulars, that the ten hundred weight, a quarter, and twenty pounds weight of Norwich farthings sold to Mr. Melchior, was the amount collected belonging to the corporation alone, not traders. This is a very large quantity, but it may be remarked that City farthings were widely diffused in the county of Norfolk, and specimens may at this day be found in remote places doing duty for the coin of the realm. No doubt the purchaser, Mr. Melchior, made a fair profit by his purchase of more than half a ton of farthings for £48.; but the magistrates were, it might be inferred, glad to rid themselves and the city, at any sacrifice, of the presence of a transgression, which had raised the ire of government in an extraordinary degree. Mr. Melchior, therefore, in this respect did the city a favour, and himself no injury, at one and the same time.

With these imperfect remarks we close the history of Norwich Traders and City Tokens. The subject is, however, far from exhausted, and it is hoped that others may be induced to follow an enquiry, presenting many curious features of an era of history, which, although not removed from our own time by centuries, is yet full of interest to the general historian, the genealogist, and the numismatist.

This paper on Norwich Tokens must not however close without slight allusion to those of the eighteenth century. The circumstances of trade, the difficulties of government, and the necessity in a time of danger from foreign enemies to rely as much as possible on individual resources, produced a copper, and in some places a silver currency, replacing the abraded silver and copper coinage of the government. Norwich followed the example of other towns, and during the final twenty years of the last century, some of the most respectable manufacturers and traders of the city and county brought forward both penny and half-penny pieces

to supply the general want. Some of them, more than ordinary specimens of die-sinking, when found in first-rate condition, are still eagerly secured and preserved by collectors. This currency subserved an important purpose, and there is sufficient evidence to prove that through its use the manufacturers of the city, and trade generally, received a degree of assistance during a period of monetary and commercial peril, that at the time was both acknowledged and appreciated.

At present, to the antiquary and historian, the smaller coinage circulated by traders in the seventeenth century is of superior interest to that of which we are speaking. The mantle of a ripe age, if not of antiquity, is gradually enwrapping these curious pieces, and, connected as they are with the singular struggle throughout the entire course of their existence, and of which we have given some notices, they must at all times interest the curious and reflective searcher into the history of our forefathers. These seventeenth century tokens, however, do not possess some particular attractions possessed by those of the eighteenth: they do not bear, on obverse or reverse, representations of public edifices belonging to the locality in which the tokens passed current; nor profiled heads of personages connected with the contests, warlike or civil, of the period; nor inscriptions which in many cases contain, even in their brevity, the salient points of national incidents and individual biographies.

We must recollect that the same mantle of Time which is falling on the early examples, will also fall on those of the latest. Then it will be that these eighteenth century tokens, removed by a series of generations from the period of their birth, will occupy the regard of English collectors equally with that felt for some of the best ancient specimens of mintage. Fine examples of the tokens of the eighteenth century should therefore be sedulously preserved, and where the possessor does not happen to value such things, it would

be performing an useful act if he handed over his specimens to some public or private depository where they would be received and conserved.

The lists of Tokens we have given contain, it is believed, all the known examples, and all are of farthing size. Many of the pieces have been personally examined, but the author is indebted to several friends and collectors for considerable information respecting them, among whom must be named Mr. R. Fitch, Mr. Ewing, Mr. James Mills, Mr. Goddard Johnson, and Mr. Boyne.
