

NOTES ON SOME IRISH COINS FOUND AT TRIM.

BY J. B. S. MACILWAINE, R.H.A.

THE town of Trim, in County Meath, was noted not only for its mint, but also for a castle of some importance, the ruins of which exist to this day.

A pamphlet, entitled *Some Notices of the Castle and of the Abbies and other Religious Houses at Trim*, by R. Butler, 1835, contains a plate by G. Salisbury, of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, which, with certain of the notes, stated by the author to have been taken from the Public Records, may be worthy of preservation in the pages of this *Journal*.

At the Parliament held at Drogheda before Richard, Duke of York, Lord Lieutenant, in February, 1460, it was enacted that there should be "a seperate coinage for Ireland, in the Castles of Dublin and Trymme," and in addition to a silver gross, "there should also be coined two coins, of brass, or mixed metal." Referring to these, a note states :—

The first of these base coins was probably never struck. Of the second (of which neither Simon nor Ruding had any specimen) three have been found in Trim. They are very rude, bearing on one side a crown, of which the pattern differs on the three specimens, between two branches, apparently of palm or broom ; and on the other a cross. This was the first copper or mixed money coined in this kingdom with a parliamentary sanction.

The next important item reads :—

1461—May 2d. The king, Edward 4, appointed Christopher Fox comptroller of the mints in the Castles of Dublin and Trim.

He was sworn into office the same day. *Rot. Pat.* 1 Edw. 4.

A note is as follows :—

In 1830. There was dug up in a garden behind a house in Scarlet-street, a gold seal ring engraved with the arms of the Foxes of Foxhall, in the County of Longford = a sceptre in bend between two crowns, with winged sceptre for crest. It is now in the possession of Capt. Barry Fox, of Anaghmore.

In 1463, letters patent granted to Germyn Lynch were confirmed, "at a parliament held at Wexford, before Thos., Earl of Desmond, deputy to George, Duke of Clarence." Lynch was by this patent appointed "master-worker of the moneys and coynes within the Castle of Dublin, within the Castle of Trymme &c." "He had authority to coyne various silver coynes and also, to make, or strike, four pieces of brass, or copper money, running at one penny of the said silver; to be imprinted with the figure of a bishop's head, and a scripture of this word 'Patrick,' about the same head and with a cross with this word 'Salvator' thereabouts on the other side."

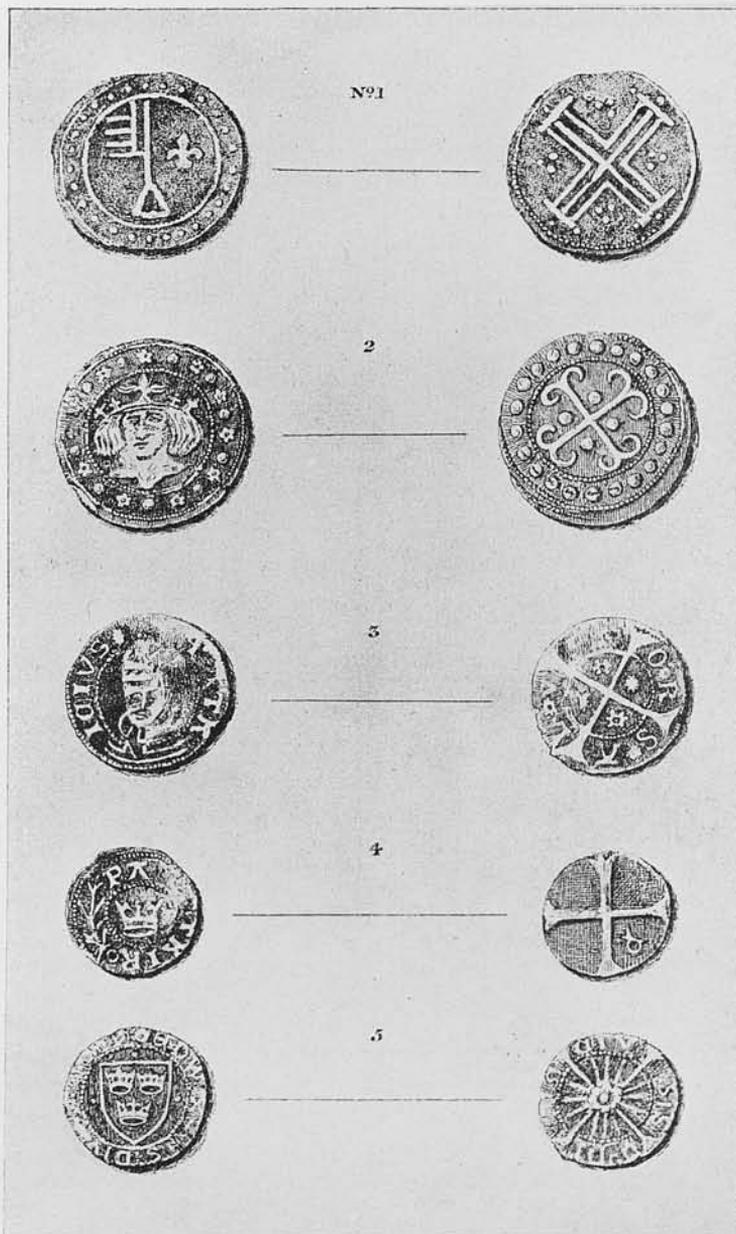
A note to the above states :—

Germyn Lynch must have used this power with great moderation, as Simon and Ruding never saw one of these "Patricks"; one, however, was found in Trim two years ago (1833?) in good preservation. It bears on one side a bishop's head in full face, with a tiara, and the word "Patricius" round it, written from right to left. On the other side, a cross, between two stars and two spur rowels with the word "Salvator."

A note on page 34 states :—

The townsmen of Trim had united with the great Abbots and Lords of Meath, in supporting Lambert Simnel. Their zeal for the house of York may have been the principal motive for the revolt from Henry VII., but it was, no doubt, fomented by the intrigues and money of the Duchess of Burgundy. A silver coin of Charles the Bold was lately dug up in the south commons of Trim.

In a subsequent edition of the work a list of coins found at Trim, which, at the time, were in the Rev. R. Butler's collection, is given, and they are as follows :—



A PLATE, PUBLISHED IN 1835, OF COINS FOUND AT TRIM, IRELAND.

Edw. IV.	...	Trim half-groat, cross and pellets. Drogheda groat, double sun and rose. Dublin half-groat, sun in rose. Three crowns, half-groat, dominos, both sides.
Richard III.	...	Drogheda penny.
Henry VII.	...	Three crowns, penny, "h" under crown. Penny with "h" under crown.

We will now turn to the coins illustrated upon the plate, which appears to have been printed from a drawing made directly on the stone. Mr. E. C. Armstrong, the assistant keeper of the Irish Section of the National Museum, Dublin, assisted the writer to examine all the coins in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, now deposited in the Museum, that were found at Trim, or had any reference to those under consideration. To the description taken from the original pamphlet some notes are added, namely:—

Neither Simon nor Ruding had seen any of the coins. Nos. 3 and 4 they knew had existed. Of No. 5 there does not appear to have been any record. All these coins were found at Trim, where it is probable Nos. 3 and 4 were struck.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COINS ILLUSTRATED IN THE PLATE.

- No. 1, of *base metal*.—There is no specimen of this coin in the National Museum at Dublin.
- No. 2, of *copper*.—A number of these pieces are in the collection. The subject of jettons, or casting counters, of which this is one, has been treated by Professor F. P. Barnard in the *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, issued by the Liverpool Institute of Archaeology for July, 1912, where two plates containing 120 reproductions are given; and the writer expresses the hope that Professor Barnard will presently give some account of the *comptoir*, or counting-board, and the reckoning cloth on which the jettons were used.
- No. 3.—There are several specimens of this coin in the collection.
- No. 4.—Henry VI. half-farthing, called "Patricks" (1460). This coin differs from any in the National Collection, all of which with the

open crown on the obverse have no "P" in any quarter of the cross on the *reverse*, and *vice versa*.

Although Dr. Nelson, in his account of the "Coinage of Ireland in Copper, Tin, and Pewter," vol. i of this *Journal*, states that "varieties occur," he does not mention the piece illustrated.

No. 5, of *brass*.—Edward IV. farthing, struck, probably, about 1467, of which there are several, of copper, in the collection.