

## VIII.

NOTICE OF A VERY RARE TYPE OF THE HALF-PLACK OF JAMES VI.  
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By an Act of the Scots Parliament in 1584, it was decreed that "all the twelff pennie picis babeis and plakis now current suld be brocht in to the cunzey house (not being fals or counterfitt) and brokin doune with all guidlie diligence and thairof new money to be cunzeit of thrie pennie fyne in grottis at aucht pennies the pice and half grottis at four pennies with twa granis of remede of fynes alsweill abone as under."<sup>1</sup> Referring to this Act, Mr Lindsay, in his "View of the Billon and Copper Coinage of Scotland,"<sup>2</sup> remarks that this coinage differs from that struck in the earlier part of James' reign, in that the later one is much finer; but he adds, that unless the hardhead with the Scottish arms on the reverse be the half groat referred to, no specimen of it is now known to exist. He proceeds further on to show that this is extremely improbable, as the half groat was to be like the groat of three pennies fine, while the hardhead is only one penny fine.

At p. 287 in the Advertisement, he notes the discovery of a half groat (or plack), which is figured in plate 17, 45.<sup>3</sup> This specimen weighs  $11\frac{1}{2}$  grains, and presents on the obverse the arms of Scotland, crowned, with the legend IACOB. 6 G. R. SCO: reverse, thistle, crowned, with the legend OPPID. EDIN.

In the first supplement (1859),<sup>4</sup> he states, that of the half plack hitherto considered unique, at least two specimens are known to exist, and another engraving of one is given in plate iii., fig. 11,<sup>5</sup> which also weighs  $11\frac{1}{2}$

<sup>1</sup> Lindsay, vol. i. pp. 185, 186, and 242.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 186.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 283, No. 45.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 32, No. 60.

grains, but presents little difference from the one given in the original work.

Mr Wingate, in his recent catalogue of Scottish coins, says, that the half-plack is "extremely rare," and only gives in his plates (38, fig. 10) one type, which is that already given by Lindsay.<sup>1</sup>

The coin in the author's cabinet presents important differences in the legend, both on the obverse and reverse; reading in the one case IACOBVS REX SCOTOR, and in the other I..OPPIDVM ...EDINBURGI. It weighs 11 grains, and is in a fair state of preservation. It is believed to be hitherto unpublished. (A sketch of it was exhibited.)