

**The Star Thursday 24 June 1875**  
**JERSEY OR ENGLISH CURRENCY.**

The impending question of fixing the copper currency of the island is certainly one of moment to all classes of the community; and we have, in previous articles, pointed out the manifest advantages, on the one hand, arising out of a definite settlement of the question, and on the other the inconvenience and embarrass accruing from a perpetuation of the fallacy known as "Jersey Currency." We have not yet heard a single argument in its favor which is by any means tenable, and the transparent sophistries of the few who, under the guise of patriotism, whatever that may mean in their case, endeavor to bolster up the commercial sham to the detriment of the working classes, are so dear and flimsy that a mere breath would suffice to scatter them to the winds. For it must be apparent to every one gifted with that sixth talent, common sense, that the working classes and those who pay mostly in copper coin, especially for small articles, are the losers by the pretended profit of a penny on the shilling; and that, if the copper currency were brought to its proper status, those who circulate the medium and those who receive would reap a mutual and corresponding advantage. For instance, a poor man who receives his wages on the Saturday night, takes occasionally from his employer part of his money in copper coin, it may be to the value of two or three shillings. In spending his money for the wants of his household he buys say 3 lbs. of sugar for a shilling (British), which takes thirteen of his pence, and the piece of beef for his Sunday's dinner amounting to two shillings (also *British*), swallows up the other twenty-six pence. Now the poor fellow has not really derived any benefit from his three shillings' worth of copper. The following week he receives all his wages in silver, and goes to his butcher to whom he had the previous week given two shillings' worth of copper, and buys a piece of meat of the value of say 2s. 8d. (British). He tenders three shillings, and receives 4d. change in *Jersey Copper*. Half a dozen other persons make similar purchases of the same tradesman and each receives a like amount in change. The butcher therefore pockets two-pence by taking the two shillings' (British) worth of copper from the working man and paying it out in change at British Currency rate. We give this illustration to prove that for years past the poor man has actually been the dupe of a system which has positively nothing to recommend it; and those tradesmen, who have taken the "bull by the horns" in endeavoring to equalize the currency are really deserving of the thanks of the community; and the sooner the States ratify their decision by sailing in the present copper medium the better will it be for all classes. Nearly all sections of trade have adopted the legal currency of the island, namely, British money, and those who have not done so would at once adopt it were an issue of copper coin put out by the States as an equivalent to the shilling. These hold out partly from the long standing but pernicious custom, and partly because the change is not yet sanctioned by the States. But they ought to know that if the States saw that public opinion was unanimously in favor of the change, the change would be made; and we are glad to find that, practically, public opinion predominates in favor of the equalization. The old currency is almost universally condemned as an anomaly and a nuisance; and as, as we have instanced above, it is a positive loss at present to the working man, the sooner it is substituted the better, we repeat, will it be for both the working and the trading classes. — *Jersey Express*.