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THE JERSEY CURRENCY.

A difficulty connected with the currency in Jersey, says the *Evening Standard*, is daily exciting more and more attention. The coinage of the island consists of pence and half-pence only, of which 13 and 26 respectively are the equivalents of a shilling, or, as the inhabitants prefer to call it, by way of contradiction, a "British" shilling. There is no special gold or silver coinage for the island. In addition to the Jersey coppers, English, French, and Guernsey coins find ready circulation, the French ten and five centime pieces and the Guernsey eight and four "double" pieces being reckoned as the equivalent of the English pence and half-pence. The inconvenience to tradespeople arising from these several currencies is just now giving rise to earnest efforts to secure a settlement of the currency on a uniform basis. Attempts hitherto made have proved abortive, owing to the prejudice that exists against any radical change. Since the failure, however, of the Mercantile Union and the Joint Stock banks and the withdrawal of the private issues of £1 notes, with the introduction of larger supplies of English gold into the island, tradesmen have felt the necessity of adopting measures to effect gradually the desired change, having little hope that the States will move in the matter. The majority of the tradesmen now deal for "British" money only — that is, they take the shilling (English) piece as of the value of 12 pence only, instead of 13 pence, as heretofore, and give change in English coppers. While they do not refuse to accept Jersey coppers, they take them only for sums of less than 6d., though at the railway stations, where "British" money is charged, a premium of a halfpenny is added to fares of less than 6d. paid in Jersey coppers. In a few establishments also, neither French nor Guernsey coins are accepted, only English or Jersey being recognised as a legal tender. Visitors to the island this season have, as a consequence of all these capricious and independent meddlings with the long established mixed currency, found themselves much embarrassed, receiving at one establishment change which they could not pass at another. At the next session of the States it is expected that a measure will be introduced to fix the currency on a satisfactory basis, by determining whether the copper currency shall be English or Jersey. There is a large majority of the town inhabitants in favour of the former, and nearly all the tradesmen will support such a change. The "country interest," however, which is very powerful in the States, will undoubtedly be opposed to the change, backed by the poorer classes of the country people, who cannot be made to see the advantage of having an uniform currency, or led to forego the much prized advantage of receiving 13 pence for a shilling, however questionable, in reality, that advantage may be.