

The Star Tuesday 31 July 1877
GUERNSEY AND JERSEY COINAGE

We have, says the *Echo*, to announce the disappearance of an old acquaintance. Among the miscellaneous collection of copper coins of various nationalities which compose the change for a sixpenny-piece now-a-days, one used not unfrequently to come across a Jersey penny, with its conscientious legend announcing its value to be only one-thirteenth of a shilling. This coin is now among the things that were, and has been replaced by a slightly larger coin. The obverse is the same as the old one; but the reverse bears a perfectly plain shield with the three lions passant regardant, and the inscription, "States of Jersey. One twelfth of a shilling." This change will prevent the repetition of the boast of the Jerseyman that in his island he could go into a public house, tender a shilling, and receive a glass of brandy and twelve pence change. Guernsey still retains its curious old coinage of eight doubles to the penny; and coins of four, two, and even one double are occasionally to be met with. What the possible use of a one double piece (value half-a-farthing) can be it is difficult to see, unless one agrees with Sidney Smith in his statement that farthings were struck in order to enable Scotchmen to subscribe to charities. The great humourist might have been even more severe had he known that so recently as the commencement of the present century a token, of the value of half a farthing, known as a "doit," was in existence in the parish of Yell, in Shetland. Its principal use is stated to have been found in the collections at churches; but the minister of the parish being a "canny" man, collected all the doits that were deposited in the ladle in which the collection was made, and refused to re-issue them.