

## Werk

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## Geld und Geldwerth in Shakespeare's England.

Von

Dr. Vatke.

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Beginnen wir mit den Theaterpreisen, so tritt uns der Unterschied des Geldwerthes im Shakespeare'schen und im heutigen England bereits sehr deutlich entgegen.

*Give me the penny . . . let me have good ground*, heißt es in Ben Jonson's *The Case is alter'd* I, 1. Für einen Penny also erlangte der „Gründling“ des Parterres seinen Stehplatz. Ben Jonson erwähnt ferner die *two pence galleries*. Und in der Induction zu *Cynthia's Revels* sagt 3. Child: *A stool, boy!* — 2. Child: *Ay, sir, if you'll give me sixpence I'll fetch one.* — 3. Child: *For what, I pray thee? what shall I do with it?* — 2. Child: *O lord, sir! will you betray your ignorance so much? why throne yourself in state on the stage, as other gentlemen use, sir?*

Die Worte im Prolog Shakespeare's zu Henry VIII endlich:

— *if they be still and willing*

*I'll undertake may see away their shilling* —

werden auch von Genée (Shakespeare S. 61) gewiß mit Recht auf die „besseren Plätze“ der feineren Theater bezogen.

Für *twopence* nun konnte das Volk sich auch dort belustigen, wo sein wahrer Himmel in London war, in Parish-Garden\*): *for at Putney I'll go to Parish-Garden for twopence.* (Thomas Lord Cromwell II, 3)

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\*) In Henry VIII, V, 3 sagt der Pförtner: *You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals. Do you take the court for Paris-Garden?* Dort fanden auch die Bärenhetzen statt.

Sehr genau werden von den Elisabethanischen Dramatikern die Preise in den Restaurants (*ordinaries*) verzeichnet. Im *Silent Woman* II, 3 spricht Ben Jonson von dem *ordinary the Cranes, or the Bear at the Bridgefoot, and of the twelve penny ordinaries*“. In *Every Man out of his Humour* II, 2 heißt es: *rich apparel has strange virtues ... it furnisheth your two shilling ordinary; takes possession of your stage and your new play*. Im *Arden of Feversham* (ed. Delius) II, 2: *Where supp'd Master Arden? At the Nag's Head, at the eighteen pence ordinary.*\*)

Die unten erwähnten *ten crowns* für ein *ordinary* wären allerdings ein ganz enormer Preis. *Crowns of the Sun* sind *gold coins of Louis XI. of France, with the mintmark of a sun*.

*Let him be bound, mylord, to pay your grace,  
Towards your expenses since your coming over,  
Twenty-five thousand crowns of the sun.*

Heywood's *Edw. IV*, Part 2, I, 4. 1600.

Diese *Crowns of the Sun* werden auch mit dem einheimischen Namen als *écus du soleil* bezeichnet und scheinen eine beliebte Münze gewesen zu sein. So erzählt Paul Hentzner (1598) von einem kostbaren Spiegel, den er bei dem Schneider Leonard Smith in London fand, „mit Perlen, Gold, Silber und Sammt so reich geschmückt, daß man ihn auf 500 *écus du soleil* schätzte“.

Auch Ben Jonson erwähnt diese Münze:

*There's a poor French crown for your ordinary.*

*Every Man out of his Humour* III, 1.

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\*) Nares, Glossary, s. v. Ordinary, bemerkt: *In 1608, a common price for a genteel ordinary was two shillings:*

*Why should a gallant pay but two shillings for his ordinary that nourishes him, and twenty times two for his brothel that consumes him.*

Middleton, *Trick to Catch* I, 1.

*The latter was, doubtless, enormously dear. Some ordinaries were cheaper:*

*No fellows that at ordinaries dare eat  
Their eighteen pence thrice out before they rise,  
And yet go hungry to a play. (ib.)*

*Some were much dearer:*

*When you have done, step to the ten crowns ordinary.*

*Ibid. Wildgoose* Ch. I, 1.

Mit obigen Citaten vereinigt sich nicht recht, was K. Elze, W. Shakespeare, S. 170 sagt: „In besonders üblem Rufe standen bei Shakespeare's Zeitgenossen die *ordinaries*, die sich von 3 Pence bis zu 1 Shilling abstuften (*Thornbury, Sh.'s England etc.*)“.

Ferner Cynthia's Revels I, 1:

*Ay, sir, I'll assure you 'tis a beaver, it cost me eight crowns but this morning.*

*Amorphus. After your French account?*

*Aso. Yes, sir.*

Hierzu bemerkt Cunningham, der neue Herausgeber der Gifford-schen Ausgabe des Ben Jonson (London 1875): *The Crowns of Louis XI., called Crowns of the Sun, from the mintmark of a sun upon them, are often spoken of by the dramatists.* — So Massinger, vol. I, 131:

*Come, come, advance!*

*Present your bag, crammed with Crowns o' the Sun.*

Gern bewahrte man nun diese *crowns* in kostbaren Kästchen (*cabinets, coffers*) auf. Damit prahlt z. B. der reiche Gremio:

*My house within the city*

*Is richly furnished with plate and gold:*

*Basins and ewers, to lave her dainty hands;*

*My hangings all of Tyrian tapestry;*

*In ivory coffers I have stuffed my crowns.*

Taming of the Shrew II, 1.

Hier erklärt Delius: *my crowns* = mein gemünztes Gold. Wir beziehen es lieber speziell auf die eben besprochene Goldmünze.

Man vergleiche ferner über die *Crowns of the Sun*, was Jakob Rathgeb (1592) anführt (bei Rye, England as seen by Foreigners p. 52):

*As regards the currency, the kings and queens of England have rightly had gold and silver coins struck for payment. A double rose-noble is worth thirty-two English shillings, that is, eighteen French francs, or eight thalers or rix-dollars; a rose-noble, half as much. An angel, having on it the knight St. George [St. Michael and the dragon], is worth ten shillings, or five francs, or three German florins; an Hungarian ducat, worth six shillings and eight pence, is equal to two florins; a French crown, or crown, or crown of the sun (écu d'or au soleil) = six shillings, or twenty-seven batzen, as in France; a Spanish pistole just as much. Of silver coins, which the Queen has had struck of pure good silver, a shilling is equal to four and a half batzen — the mark = 13 s. 4 d.; the noble = 6 s. 8 d.*

Gehen wir auf einzelne Münzen ein, so heißt es in Ben Jonson's Magnetic Lady IV, 1:

*Noble parson Palate,*

*Thou shalt be a mark advanced; here is a piece. (Gives him money).*

Dies erläutert Gifford: *Here is a string of puns: the mark (13 s. 4 d.) added to the noble (6 s. 8 d.) made up the piece.* Also ist *piece* ein *pound* = 20 s. — König Karl I. erhöhte im Jahre 1630 die Pension des Ben Jonson als Poeta laureatus von 100 mark auf 100 pounds, also von ca. 1400 s. auf 2000 s. Wie unregelmäßig solche Pensionen übrigens gezahlt wurden, wird schalkhaft beleuchtet von Ben Jonson selbst in den Gipsies Metamorphosed.

Ein Artikel, auf den viel Geld verwandt wurde, war der Tabak; und man rauchte ja selbst in der Kirche und im Theater so stark, daß in Beaumont u. Fletcher's Knight of the Burning Pestle versichert wird, man könnte die Schauspieler auf der Bühne nicht erkennen. — König Jakob in seinem „Counterblaste to Tobacco“ (Lond. 1604) versichert: *Let the Gentry of this land beare witnesse, some of them bestowing three, some foure hundred pounds a yeare upon this precious stinke.* — Im J. 1614 sagt Barnabee Rych in The Honesty of this Age: *If it be true that there be 7000 shops, in and about London, that doth vend Tobacco, as it is credibly reported . . . it may well bee supposed to be but an ill customed shoppe, that taketh not five shillings a day.*

Wir erwähnen ferner 2 King Henry IV, II, 2. Dort bietet Falstaff der endlich Zahlung verlangenden Wirthin an: *Let it be ten pound.* — *Hostess: Let it be but twenty nobles,* wozu Delius bemerkt: ca. ein Drittel weniger als die *ten pound.* — *Ten pound* = 200 s., *twenty nobles* =  $20 \times 6 \text{ s. } 8 \text{ d.}$  = ca. 140 s.

Eine erwähnenswerthe Münze ist ferner der *Ducatoon*, der halbe Dukaten. Vgl. Nares: *Ducatoon, a half-ducat. A foreign coin = 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.*

*The large ruffs are characteristic of the heads on the coins of the earlier part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century:*

*A face of severall parishes and forts,  
Like to a sergeant shar'd at innes of court.  
What mean the elders [Puritans] else, those kirk dragoons,  
Made up of ears and ruffs like Ducatoons?*

Cleaveland's Poems, 1651.

Auch die *three-farthings*-Stücke nennen wir:

*The three farthing pieces in the reign of Elizabeth were made of silver and very thin, and these often became cracked in circulation.*

*My face so thin*

*That in my ear I durst not stick a rose,  
Lest men should say, Look where three-farthings goes.*

King John II, 2.

*He values me at a crackt three-farthing, for aught I see.*

Ben Jonson, *Every Man in h. H.* II, 1.

Wir erwähnen ferner:

*They were all like one another as halfpence are.*

(As You Like It III, 2, Clarendon Press, 1880, ed. Wright):  
*No halfpence were coined in Elizabeth's reign till 1582—3. Bacon refers to 'the late new halfpence' in the Dedication to the first edition of the Essays, which was published in 1597. They all had the portcullis with a mintmark, and on the reverse a cross moline with three pellets in each angle, so that, in comparison with the great variety in coins of other denominations then in circulation, there was a propriety in saying 'as like one another as halfpence are'. They were used till 1601. See Folkes, Table of Silver Coins, p. 57.*

*They have in England*

*A coin that bears the figure of an angel  
Stamped in gold, but that's insculp'd upon.*

Merchant of Venice II, 7.

*The 'angel' was worth about ten shillings, and was so called from having on one side a figure of Michael piercing the dragon. It has supplied Shakespeare with many puns.\*)*

Ueber das Verhältniß von Gold- und Silberwährung führen wir an: Im Merchant of Venice II, 7 sagt Morocco:

*Or shall I think in silver she's immured,  
Being ten times undervalued to tried gold?*

— *undervalued (Compare I, 1. 165.): undervalued to, inferior in value to. In the beginning of Elizabeth's reign gold was to silver in the proportion of 11 to 1: in the forty third year of her reign (i. e. 1600, the year in which this play was first printed) it was in the proportion of 10 to 1. (Encyc. Brit.-Art. 'Coinage'.) The ratio at present is nearly 15 to 1. (Clark and Wright, Clarendon Press 1883.)*

Auch „Sterling“ war ursprünglich eine Silbermünze. S. Nares' Glossary:

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\*) *I have a portague*, Ben Jonson, *Alchemist* I, 1 (*a gold coin worth about three pounds twelve shillings.* Gifford.)

... *he shares but a groat in the shilling with him. That's but the third part indeed.* A Woman never Vexed. (O. Pl. XII, 128.)

*Starling, a corruption of Sterling, which is itself abbreviated from Esterling. The first sterling money was the silver penny; of which a full account is to be found in Stowe's London, p. 42 and 43, and also in a book entitled, Nummi Britannici Historia, published in 1726.*

*Some have saide esterling money to take that name of a starre, stamped in the border or ring of the pennie; others of a bird called a starre or starling stamped in the circumference. (Stowe, loc. cit.)*

In Ermangelung ausreichender Münze machte man sich auch wohl selbst Geld, die Tokens:

*Token, s. A small coin, struck by private individuals, to pass for a farthing, before the government struck such pieces. We, who have lately seen local and private tokens, as substitutes for silver coins, and before that in copper for pence and twopences, cannot wonder at the practice. — A token [farthing] quadrans. Nobody now will trust you for a token; quadrantem nemo jam tibi credet. Coles' Dictionary.*

*See a fine hobby-horse for your young master; cost you but a token a week, his provender.*

Ben Jonson Barth. Fair III, 1.

*Afterwards, in the same play, we read of a token's-worth, the value of a token\*):*

*Buy a token's-worth of great pins, to fasten yourself to my shoulder.*

Ibid. III, 4.

Gifford zu B. J. Barth. Fair III, 1 verweist auf B. J. Every Man in his H. I, 3:

*Cob. Drunk, sir! you hear not me say so: perhaps he swallow'd a tavern-token, or some such device, sir, I have nothing to do withal.*

Gifford erklärt:

*This, as Reed observes, was a cant term for getting drunk. Tokens were promissory pieces of brass or copper, which tradesmen, in a scarcity of small money, were sometimes permitted to coin for themselves; a practice which has lately been revived. That most of them would travel to the tavern, may easily be supposed; and hence perhaps the name. Their usual value seems to have been a farthing.*

Auch Privaten konnte durch königliches Patent das Recht, Münzen zu schlagen, verliehen werden:\*\*)

\*) *denrée*, Esswaare, eigentlich Summe oder Werth eines Denarius, einer römischen Silbermünze von 10 As, vgl. das bayrische Pfennwerth, d. h. Werth eines Pfennigs. (Dr. Pfundheller zu Voltaire Charles XII., p. 147, Berlin 1877.)

\*\*\*) Bischof Latimer, der nach Sitte der Zeit in seinen Predigten gern auf die realen Zustände des Landes eingeht, beklagt es, daß jetzt Geistliche die

*I will not bate a Harrington of the sum.*

B. Jonson, *The Devil is an Ass* II, 1.

In 1613, a patent was granted to John Stanhope, lord Harrington, Treasurer of the Chambers, for the coinage of royal farthing tokens, of which he seems to have availed himself with sufficient liberality. Some clamour was excited on the occasion; but it speedily subsided; for the Star Chamber kept a watchful eye on the first symptoms of discontent at these pernicious indulgences. Now (says the author of *The First Fourteen Years of King James*) my lord Harrington obtained a patent of his majesty for the making of brasse farthings, a thing that brought with it some contempt, though lawful, for all things lawful are not expedient, who being enjoined to go into the Low-countries with her Grace (the princess Elizabeth, married to the Palsgrave) by the way lost his life. — From this nobleman they took the name of Harringtons in common conversation; thus Sir Henry Wotton: *I have lost four or five friends, and not gotten the value of one Harrington.* *Letters* p. 558. (Gifford.)

Cunningham fügt hinzu: *At this period there was a similar token in Scotland, which I find mentioned in A Nest of Ninnies, 1608 (Shak. Soc. Reprints, p. 19): Jemy thinks it was much to give a crowne for that, for which shee did demand but an Atchison, which in our money is but three farthings“.*

Ueber den Zinsfuß ist Folgendes das Wesentliche. Nach dem Statute of 37 Henry VIII, ch. 9, war der Zinsfuß auf 10 per cent festgesetzt, ebenso durch 13 Elizabeth, ch. 8. Durch 21 Jakob I, ch. 17, wurde der Zinsfuß auf 8 per cent ermäßigt.\*) Hierauf wird als auf etwas ganz Neues angespielt in Ben Jonson, *Staple of News* II, 1:

*My goddess, bright Pecunia,  
Altho' your grace be fall'n, of two i' the hundred,  
Your grace's servant still.*

In der 3. Scene desselben Aktes wird noch weiter darauf angespielt.

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Kontrolleure der Münzen seien: *Should we haue ministers of the church to be comptrollers of the myntes?... I can not tell you, but the sayinge is, that since priests haue bene minters, money hath bene wourse then it was before.* (Latimer, *Sermon* 18/1. 1548/49, bei Skeat, *Specimens*, p. 243.)

\*) Vgl. Nares, *Gloss. s. v. Interest of Money*. Er erwähnt nicht die Stelle bei Harrison, *Book II, Chap. XII* (p. 242 ed. Furnivall; die Worte über die Juden gehen voran). „*In time past it was Sors pro sorte, that is, the principall onely for the principall; but now, beside that which is about the principall, pro-*



In der Magnetic Lady des Ben Jonson werden 10 per cent als gewöhnlicher Zinsfuß angesehen:\*)

*There's threescore thousand got in fourteen year,  
After the usual rate of ten i' the hundred.* Act II, sc. 6.

Eine deutliche Bezugnahme auf den Zinsfuß von 10 per cent enthält auch Shakespeare's All's Well I, 1, wenn wir die Lesart der Folio-Ed. festhalten: *Out with 't: within the year it will make itself two, which is goodly increase, and the principal itself not much the worse. Folio: ten years.* Die meisten Hg., sagt Delius, ändern *two* in *ten*; und das scheint uns nothwendig; in einem Jahr das Kapital zu verdoppeln wäre ebenso stark als unbelegbar.

Wer nun machte diese Geld- und Wuchergeschäfte in London?

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*perlie called Vsura, we chalenge Foenus, that is, commoditie of soile, & fruits of the earth, if not the ground it selfe. In time past also one of the hundred was much, from thence it rose vnto two, called in Latine, Vsura Ex sextante; three, to wit, Ex quadrante; then to foure, to wit, Ex triente; then to fve, which is Ex quincunce; then to six, called Ex semisse, &: as the accompt of the Assis ariseth, and comming at the last vnto Usura ex asse, it amounteth to twelue in the hundred, and therefore the Latines call it Centesima, for that in the hundred meneth, it doubleth the principall; but more of this elsewhere. See Cicero against Verres, Demosthenes against Aphobus, and Athenaeus, lib. 13 in fine: and when thou hast read them well, helpe I praie thee in lawfull maner to hang vp such a stake Centum pro Cento, for they are no better worthie, as I doo iudge in conscience. Forget not also such landlords as vse to value their leases at a secret estimation giuen of the wealth and credit of the taker, whereby they seeme (as it were) to eat them vp, and deale with bondmen, so that if the lessee be thought to be worth an hundred pounds, he shall paie no lesse for his new terme, or else another to enter with hard and doubtfull couenants.*

\*) Zu dem Zinsfuß *twelve in the hundred* vgl. Nares, Gloss. s. v. Interest:

*Ten in the hundred the devill allowes,  
But Combe will have twelue, he sweares and vowes;  
If any one askes who lies in this tombe,  
Hoh [probably Ho Ho] quoth the devill, 'tis my John a Combe.*

Letters from the Bodl., vol. III, p. 538.

*John a Coombe, therefore, who is censured as an usurer, took only the legal interest of his time, according to the epitaph,*

*Ten in the hundred lies here engrav'd.*

*The subsequent reductions of interest were, to six cent, 12 Char. II, c. 13; and to five, 12 Anne, St. 2, c. 16.*

Da zeigt uns der Zinsfuß, in seinem Abnehmen, wie ein Thermometer, die abnehmende Härte der Anschauungen und Gesetze in Bezug auf Mein und Dein und auf den Bedürftigeren, den Aermern überhaupt.

Juden gab es nicht, diese wurden ja erst durch Cromwell im J. 1653 nach England zurückberufen\*), worin dem Protektor bei uns bekanntlich der Große Kurfürst, wie in vielen anderen Dingen, nachahmte.

Man hatte Geldmäkler; ein solcher war z. B. der Vater des John Milton. Das Wort *Banquier* aber kommt nicht vor; die Banquiers des damaligen Englands waren vielmehr die *Goldsmiths*, die im 16. Jahrhundert so sehr über Verfall ihrer Kunst klagen, da man statt zierlicher Goldschmiedekunst einfach gefaßte Edelsteine vorzuziehen begann. Noch heute sieht man ja in London vielfach Gold- und Silbermünzen in den Schaufenstern der Juweliere, welche die alte Beschäftigung des Geldwechsels wenigstens nebensächlich beibehalten haben. In Alt-England aber galt Goldschmied und Wucherer beinahe für gleichbedeutend. *He is a goldsmith and no usurer*, heißt es in Ben Jonson's *Alchemist* (I, 3).

Ueber den Goldschmied als Banquier befragen wir noch *Comedy of Errors* IV, 1.

*Enter a Merchant, Angelo, and an Officer.*

*Merch. You know since Pentecost the sum is due ...*

Das Geld zu holen, geht er *to the goldsmith's house*.

Auf der Dresdener Galerie befindet sich Holbein's berühmtes Porträt des Morett, des Goldschmieds, sagen wir Hofbanquiers, König Heinrich VIII. Daß aber die Goldschmiede fast direkt als Wucherer angesehen wurden, muß uns um so unliebsamer berühren, als angenommen wird, daß die meisten Goldschmiede in London Deutsche waren; so z. B. Jakob von Lindau am Bodensee, welcher die Geschmeide der Königin Elisabeth verfertigte. Vielleicht ist es ein kleiner Trost, daß Benvenuto Cellini die Deutschen als die besten seiner Arbeiter in Paris bezeichnet.

Macaulay bemerkt über unsern Gegenstand, *Hist. of England* II, 212, Tauchn. Ed.: *The goldsmiths of London were in the habit of advancing large sums of money to the government. In return for these advances they received assignments on the revenue, and were repaid with interest as the taxes came in... On a sudden it was announced that it was not convenient to pay the principal, and that the lenders must content themselves with the interest... Several great*

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\*) „*Now were the Jews admitted*“, bemerkt J. Evelyn, 14. Dec. 1653. Harrison p. 242 (Descr. of Engl. ed. Furnivall) sagt: „*usurie, a trade brought in by the Jewes, now perfectlie practised almost by every christian, and so commonlie, that he is accompted but for a foole that doth lend his monie for nothing*“.

*mercantile houses broke; and dismay and distress spread through all society.\*)*

Daß das Geld im Allgemeinen einen weit höheren Werth hatte als heutzutage, darf man auch aus der Notiz des 1620 geborenen John Evelyn entnehmen, der von seinem Vater, *a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum*, sagt: *His estate was esteem'd about £ 4,000 per annum, well wooded and full of timber. — He had 116 servants in liverys, every one livery'd in greene sattin doublet; divers gentlemen and persons of quality waited on him in the same garbe and habit, which at that time was esteem'd a great matter. —* Jetzt wäre eine solche Dienerschaft bei dem angegebenen Einkommen wohl nicht zu erhalten; die 116 Servants mögen übrigens ebenso glänzend gekleidet, als elend ernährt worden sein.

Wir vergleichen hierzu *Merry Wives III, 4*:

*Anne. I come to him. — This is my father's choice.  
O! what a world of vile ill-favour'd faults  
Looks handsome in three hundred pounds a year!*  
*Shal. He will maintain you like a gentlewoman.*  
*Slen. Ay, that I will, come cut and long-tail, under the degree of a squire.*  
*Sh. He will make you a hundred and fifty pounds jointure.*

Man könnte, sagt Alex. Schmidt, aus den Dichtern statistische Tabellen über das Steigen des Wohlstandes in England entwerfen. Latimer (unter Eduard VI.) führt es als einen Beweis von seines Vaters Wohlhabenheit an, daß er, ein bloßer Landmann, jeder seiner Töchter fünf Pfund als ihr Theil gab. In den letzten Jahren der Elisabeth waren siebenhundert Pfund ein Anreiz zur Heirath; bei Congreve überwiegen zwölftausend Pfund alle anderen Rücksichten.

In *King Lear II, 2* wird Oswald von Kent genannt *a knave; a rascal, an eater of broken meats, a base, proud, shallow, beggarly, three-suited, hundred-pound, filthy, worsted-stocking knave. —*

*Hundred-pound, a term of reproach, as Steevens shews by a quotation from Middleton's Phoenix (IV, 2): 'Am I used like a hundred-pound gentleman?' The possession of a hundred pounds was apparently the lowest qualification for any one who claimed the title of gentleman. (Wright, Clarendon Press.)*

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\*) Daß die englische Regierung des 17. Jahrhunderts bisweilen unfähig war, zurückzuzahlen, ist ja an dem Beispiel des William Penn und seines Vaters am Bekanntesten geworden.

Th. Carlyle hält den damaligen Geldwerth für mehr als den dreifachen des jetzigen. Er sagt von dem Großvater Oliver Cromwell's und dessen Farm: *These lands he himself farmed: the income in all is guessed or computed to have been about 300 l. a year; a tolerable fortune in those times; perhaps somewhat like 1000 l. now.* (Tauchn. Ed. I, 21.)

Eine sehr drückende freiwillige Abgabe eines solchen Land-Gentleman waren die Bewirthungen des Landesherrn. Carlyle erzählt I, 33 vom J. 1603: *The same year, four months afterwards (i. e. May) King James, coming from the North to take possession of the English crown, lodged two nights at Hinchinbrook; with royal retinue, with immense sumptuosities\*).. Uncle Oliver, besides the ruinously splendid entertainments, gave himhounds, horses, and astonishing gifts at his departure.*

Dies sind die s. g. *Progresses*. Jak. Rathgeb, des Grafen von Württemberg-Mömpelgart Begleiter von 1592 bemerkt über die Reisen des Königlichen Hoflagers in England: Wenn die Königin aufbricht, so folgen mit dem Gepäcke, da sie keine Wagen haben, über dreihundert „Kärche“, nämlich große zweiräderige Karren, mit fünf, sechs starken Pferden bespannt.

Ueber die Entwerthung und Verschlechterung der Münze unter Heinrich VIII. und die hierdurch bedingte Vertheuerung der Lebensmittel führen wir noch einige Stellen an:

Will. Stafford's Examination of certayne ordinary Complaints, A. D. 1581 (New Shakspeare Society VI, 3) p. 78: *Because our coin was debased, they wanted more of it for their goods. As for our tod of woll, they (the Marchaunts) would geue as much Wyne, Spun, or Silke as they were wont to geue for so much. Yea, for an ounce of our siluer or golde, as much stufte as euer was geuen for the same. And their other answeere was, that, if we reckened they did sell their wares dearer because they demaunded moe pieces of our coyne for the same then they were wont to do, that was not their fault, they saide, but oures, that made our pieces lesse, or lesse worth then they were in times past. Therefore, they demaunded the moe pieces of them for their Wares: saying, they cared not what names wee woulde geue oure coyne, they would consider the quan-*

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\*) *His Majesty came from the Belvoir-Castle region, „hunting all the way“.*  
— Auch in Frankreich mußten Schlösser und Klöster die königlichen Jagdzüge aufnehmen. Als dieser Druck zu arg wurde, sah Karl V. sich veranlaßt, die Jagdschlösser in Versailles, Fontainebleau, Compiègne, Chambord, St. Germain u. s. w. zu bauen.

*tity and right value of it, that they were esteemed at euery where through the world.*

p. 79: *why should they (the foreigners), for the balance, take our debased coin as pure?*

p. 80: *Yea, percase it goes further yet; yea, to such as were the first counsailours of that deede, pretending it should bee to his highnes greate and notable commoditye, whych, if hys grace mought haue perceiued to haue ben but a momentary in profit, and continuall losse both to his highnes and also to his whole Realme, Hee with his people might haue ben early reuoked againe from the practise of that simple deuise.*

p. 81: *I fynde therefore two speciall causes, in myne Opinion, by meanes of the which, notwithstanding that restitution made in our coin, the aforesayd dearth of things (in respect of the former age) remayneth yet among vs. The first is, that whereas immediately after the basenesse of our Coyne in the time of kyng Henry the eighth, the prices of all things generally among al sorts of people rose; it must needes happen here withal (as yee know) that our gentlemen, which liued onely vpon the revenues of their lands, were as neare or nearer touched (as is before proued) with the smarte hereof then any other, of what order or estate so euer.*

Ferner vergleichen wir Harrison II, 5 p. 131 (ed. Furnivall): *I doo not denie but that the nauie of the land is in part mainteined by their traffike, and so are the high prices of wares (thinges) kept vp, now they haue gotten the onelie sale of things, [vpon pretense of better furtherance of the commonwealth] into their [owne] hands: whereas in times past when the strange bottoms were suffered to come in\*) we had sugar for foure pence the pound, that now [at the writing of this treatise] is [well] worth half a crowne, raisons [of Corinth] or corints for a penie, that now are holden at six pence, and sometime at eight pence and ten pence the pound: nutmegs at two pence halfe penie the ounce: ginger at a penie an ounce, prunes at half penie farding: great raisons three pound for a penie, cinamon at foure pence the ounce, cloues at two pence, and pepper at twelve, and sixteene pence the pound.*

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\*) Vgl. die Schließung des Stahlhofs der Hanseaten durch Elisabeth.