

# 'Of Spanish Money'.

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## Of Spanish Money.

The gold monies of Spain are the double Dobleon or four Pistole piece with sixteen Reales, the Dobleon worth 8 Reales, the single Pistole worth four Realis, the Ecus de Mare or Crown de Mare worth 2 Reales or 16 Reaus or 544 Maravadis. The silver pieces are the Reale, Piastre or Piece of 8 worth 1 Reale or 8 Reaus of old Plate & 10 of new. For since the year 1686 their monies have been raised 25 per cent, or in the proportion of 4 to 5. The half & quarter pieces of eight called in Ireland half & quarter cobbs worth 4 & 2 Reaus of old plate & 5 &  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The Reaule of plate or silver worth 34 Maravadies. The Maravadi is a little piece of copper money. Their Pistoles & Pieces of  $\frac{8}{8}$  are of the same weight fineness & value with the French Lewidors & Ecus. The Pistoles are accounted  $\frac{1}{4}$  legr worse their pieces of  $\frac{8}{8}$  of Sevil  $\frac{1}{2}$  dw<sup>t</sup> worse, those of Mexico  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dw<sup>t</sup> worse those of Peru  $12$  dw<sup>t</sup> worse, the Pillar pieces of  $\frac{8}{8}$  are  $\frac{1}{2}$  dw<sup>t</sup> better. Their Ducat is not a real coyne but an imaginary one being a name put for 11 Reaus 374 Maravadis in merchandizing or 11 Reaus & 1 Maravadi or 375 Maravadis in Bills of exchange. For exchanges are often made by the Ducat. The silver money above mentioned they call money of plate. This is reale effective & invariable. They have another sort of money called money of Billion which is partly reale of silver & copper mint) & partly imaginary & this money is half the value of the money of Plate, but variable in value. In this money there are no Reales nor Reaus in specie but only quarter & half quarter of Reaus.

One Sevil piece dated 1691 weight  $13$  dw<sup>t</sup>  $21$  gr. Another dated 1700 weight  $14$  dw<sup>t</sup>  $00$  gr By the assay both were found standard. They seem to be four fifths of the old Piasters & to be coyned for eight Reaus after the Piastres were raised to tenn & to be worth about  $3^s. 7\frac{1}{4}^d$ .

Pieces of eight should weigh  $17\frac{1}{2}$  dw<sup>t</sup> & 1000 pieces of eight should weigh 875 ounces or  $72$  lb  $11$  ounces Troy, but Merchants find that those which come from the West Indies fresh out of the Mint (the Mexico & Pillar pieces usually weigh but 872 ounces or  $72$  lb  $8$  ounces Tory the thousand & sometimes but  $72$  lb  $5$  oz, especially if there be many pillar pieces mixt with the Mexico. For the Pillar pieces are scarce so heavy as the Mexico & some of them are a little worn: whereas the Mexico come all of the {m} fresh out of the mint. The merchants sort them & send the lighter pieces to the sea coasts of France & other places where they pass as money the 8 grain pieces to barbary; the four grain pieces to Turkey & the pillar pieces to England for the melting pot. Whence the pillar pieces in London equal or exceed the Mexico pieces in number.

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