

O.

**EXCHANGES, MONEYS, ACCOUNTS,
WEIGHT, AND MEASURES.**

1885.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE

from

January to November 1885.

Place						Maximum	Minimum	Remarks
On London	—	Government	3 days sight	8	2½	} Premium for Bills payable here in Sicilian Dollars at 50 <i>d.</i> sterling per dollar
"		Commercial	do.	...	...	8	2
"		"	30 do.	...	...	7½	1½
"		"	90 days date	...	...	7	¼
France		"	3 " sight	...	...	6	1½
"		"	30 " "	...	...	5½	1
"		"	90 days date	5	par.	
On London	—	Government	3 days sight	¾	½	} Rate for Bills payable against Sovereigns
"		Commercial	do.	...	...	¾	par.
"		"	30 do.	...	...	¼	½ disct.
"		"	90 days date	...	...	1 disct.	2 "
France		"	3 " sight	...	...	par.	¼ "
"		"	30 " "	...	...	½ disct.	2 "
"		"	90 " date	1 "	2½ "	

Great fluctuations took place in the exchanges during the month of November and the beginning of December 1885 for drafts on London and France against payment here in Sicilian Dollars; and this in consequence of the withdrawal from Circulation of the Sicilian Dollars, holders of which were eager to give them against paper on London paying as high as 8% premium.

The English Sovereign being now the sole legal tender, recognized by the Commercial Community, the Exchange for drafts on London is regulated by the rate of discount of the Bank of England; subject, however, to the general rule of supply and demand which naturally raises or lowers the Exchange.

COINS.

British Coins are the sole legal tender pursuant to an order of Her Majesty in Council of the 13th August 1855, subject to the limitation specified in a similar order of Her Majesty, dated 13th November 1850.

Sicilian Dollars, however, in virtue of a Convention passed some years back amongst the Commercial Community, were current at the rate of 4s. 2d. each, and all transactions were payable in Sicilian Dollars unless otherwise agreed upon; — but their withdrawal from Circulation by the Italian, Government by a decree dated 1st October 1885, finally put an end to their Circulation.

About \$ 2,900,000, were exported from these Islands of which \$ 1,896,530, were converted through the agency of the local Government. This sudden displacement of the principal medium of exchange would have created a serious crisis had not the local Government taken the matter in hand.

Twenty franc pieces and five franc pieces both French and Italian are, now, merely kept in deposit as articles of merchandize for exportation to the neighbouring marts of Tunis, Tripoli, Syria and Sicily, when a demand arises for them for the purchase of produce.

AMOUNT OF COIN AND PAPER IN CIRCULATION.

Estimated amount held in these Islands	... ..	£ 1,200,000
Including in Circulation for the local trade about	... ..	„ 300,000

The two Local Banks in "Commandite" had in Circulation on the 31st December 1885, Bank Notes to the Amount of about £ 70,000, most of which have been withdrawn and what remains of this paper is now payable in gold.

The Actual circulation is as follows :

The Banco di Malta	... ..	£ 18,000
„ „ Anglo Maltese	... ..	„ 15,000

A C C O U N T S K E P T .

By Government, in Sterling.

„ Commerce likewise in Sterling, a few merchants, however, of the Marina and Casals (villages) still continue to keep their Accounts according to the old style in Scudi, Tari and Grains :—

One Maltese Scudo is — 1/8

A Tari „ — -/1 $\frac{2}{3}$.

A Grain „ — -/0 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Twelve Maltese Scudi = to 20/- or £ 1 Sterling.

Maltese Coins to the nominal value of at least £ 10,000 are believed to exist in private hoards.

MEASURES.

1. Length Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			—	ENGLISH MEASURE		
Pollici	Palmi	Canne		Yards	Feet	Inches
1	...	...	—	...	...	... $\frac{55}{64}$
12	1	...	—	...	...	10 $\frac{20}{64}$
96	8	1	—	2	...	10 $\frac{32}{64}$

N.B.—Beams are sold by a length measure, called *Tratto*, equal to 12 *Palmi*, or 3 Yards, 1 Foot, $3\frac{3}{4}$ Inches English: each *Tratto* is calculated by cubic measure. Planks and Scantlings are sold by the 100. Mahogany is sold by the English Cubic Foot.

2. Cloth Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			—	ENGLISH MEASURE			
Pollici	Palmi	Canne		Yards	Quarters	Nails	Inches
1	...	...	—	...	...	...	... $\frac{55}{64}$
12	1	...	—	...	1	...	12 $\frac{0}{64}$
96	8	1	—	2	1	...	13 $\frac{2}{64}$

3. Square Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE							—	ENGLISH MEASURE						
Once	Palmi	Canne	Misure	Mondelli	Tomoli	Salme		Miles	Acres	Roods	Perch.	Yards	Feet	Inches
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	... $\frac{27225}{30864}$
144	1	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	106 $\frac{1424}{4096}$
9,216	64	1	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	5	2	...	38 $\frac{1}{4}$
39,321 $\frac{9}{15}$	273 $\frac{2}{15}$	4 $\frac{4}{15}$	1	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	22	3	...	96
393,216	2,730 $\frac{0}{15}$	42 $\frac{0}{15}$	10	1	...	...	—	...	...	...	7	12	2	132
2,359,296	16,384	256	60	6	1	...	—	...	...	1	4	13	4	...
37,748,736	262,144	4,096	960	96	16	1	—	...	4	1	31	3	3	36

4. Solid Measure for Wheat, Seeds, &c.

MALTESE MEASURE						—	ENGLISH MEASURE	
Lamini	Misure	Mondelli	Tomoli	Sacchi	Salme		Imperial Quarter	Bushels
1	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	... $\frac{1}{1200}$
10	1	...	...	...	...	—	...	... $\frac{1}{120}$
100	10	1	...	...	...	—	...	... $\frac{1}{12}$
600	60	6	1	...	...	—	...	... $\frac{1}{2}$
2,400	240	24	4	1	...	—	...	2
9,600	960	96	16	4	1	—	1	or 8

N.B.—Charcoal, Walnuts, Chesnuts, and large Sicilian Beans are sold by heaped measure.

MEASURES.

5. Liquid Measure for Ale, Beer, Porter, Wine, and Spirits.

MALTESE MEASURE									ENGLISH MEASURE													
Piate	Terzi	Mezzi	Quartucci	Quarti or Ottavi	Quartare	Barili	Pipo	Botte	FOR ALE, BEER, AND PORTER						FOR WINE AND SPIRITS							
									Bolls	Bibbs	Barrels	Kilderkins	Fethins	Gallons	Quarts	Pots	Gills	Pipes	Bibbs	Gallons	Quarts	Pots	Gills
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
8	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
38	19	9½	4¾	1	...	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	2
76	38	19	9½	2	1	...	...	...	—	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
304	152	76	38	8	4	1	...	...	—	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	...
3,344	1,672	836	418	88	44	11	1	...	—	...	1	1	...	1	5	2	...	...	1	4	2	...
6,688	3,344	1,672	836	176	88	22	2	1	—	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	20	...	...

N.B.—209 Gallons are equal to 1 Botte.

6. Liquid Measure for Oil and Milk.

MALTESE MEASURE								ENGLISH MEASURE			
Quartini	Misure	Terzi	Mezzi	Quartucci	Quarte	Caffai	Barili	Gallons	Quarts	Pots	Gills
1	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...²²¹ / ₁₀₀
4	1	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...⁹⁰ / ₁₀₀
10	2½	1	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...²²⁵ / ₁₀₀
20	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	... ⁵⁰ / ₁₀₀
40	10	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
160	40	16	8	4	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
640	160	64	32	16	4	1	...	4	2	...	...
1,280	320	128	64	32	8	2	1	9	...	...	...

7. Apothecaries' Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			
Gocce	Dramme	Onci	Libbre
1	...	...	...
60	1	...	...
480	8	1	...
5,760	96	12	1

= 1 Grain }
 = 1 Dram } ENGLISH MEASURE.
 = 1 Ounce }
 = 1 Pound }

WEIGHTS.

8. Troy Weight for Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones

MALTESE WEIGHT					=	ENGLISH WEIGHT			
Gocce or Grani	Treppesi	Ottavi	Ounce	Libbre		Pounds	Ounces	Drams	Grains
1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$\frac{1925}{1728}$
18	1	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$\frac{121314}{1728}$
72	4	1	...	...	=	...	...	2	$3\frac{73}{1728}$
576	32	8	1	...	=	...	...	17	$\frac{576}{1728}$
6,912	384	96	12	1	=	...	10	4	4

9. Avoirdupois Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT							=	ENGLISH WEIGHT			
Ottavi	Quarto	Ounce	Rotoli	Pese	Cantari	Pesato		Cwt.	Pounds	Ounces	Drams
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$1\frac{3}{16}$
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$3\frac{1}{16}$
8	4	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$14\frac{1}{16}$
240	120	30	1	...	...	...	=	...	1	12	...
1,200	600	150	5	1	...	...	=	...	8	12	...
24,000	1,200	3,000	100	20	1	...	=	1	63	...	...
72,000	36,000	9,000	300	60	3	1	=	4	77	...	...

WEIGHTS.

10. Wool Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT							ENGLISH WEIGHT					
Ottari	Quarte	Onco	Rotoli	Pese	Cantari	Pesate	Sacks	Wey	Tod	Stones	Cloves	Pounds
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{7}{960}$
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{14}{960}$
8	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{56}{960}$
140	120	30	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1720}{960}$
1,200	600	150	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	$\frac{1720}{960}$
24,000	1,200	3,000	100	20	1	...	...	...	6	...	1	...
72,000	36,000	9,000	300	60	3	1	1	...	5	1	1	...

11. Apothecaries' Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT						
Grani	Scrupoli	Dramme	Once	Libbre		
1	...	...	...	...	=	1 Grain
20	1	...	...	...	=	1 Scruple
60	3	1	...	...	=	1 Dram
480	24	8	1	...	=	1 Ounce
5,760	288	96	12	1	=	1 Pound

} ENGLISH WEIGHT.