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New Bernians, as far back as they can remember, have been hearing wisecracks advising them to "Save your Confederate money, the South will rise again!" Few jokes have been as durable, especially among Yankee humorist appearing before Yankee audiences.

Perhaps it's poetic justice that, in truth, Confederate bills are steadily increasing in value, while the United States dollar declines. If you happen to have any stored away in an attic trunk, don't let a fast-talking carpet bagger of the modern variety talk you out of your treasure.

When first issued, Confederate "Blue Back" was worth 95 cents on the dollar in gold, but by the time Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, the valuation had collapsed to 1.6 cents. Less than a month later, when the last active trading for Confederate currency occurred, it was possible to get 1,200 "Blue Backs" for one U. S. "Greenback."

Today, we are told, Confederate bills can be purchased in limited amounts at prices ranging from 50 cents to one dollar, but the market is rising as the Civil War Centennial moves along toward its nationwide observance. Already some of the rarer bills are selling for several hundred dollars apiece, and you might just happen to have one or several of this sort stuck away somewhere.

It may surprise you, as it did us, to learn that the Confederate government issued more than \$200,000,000 worth of paper money during the War Between the States and almost all of it was printed in small denominations. The first note was turned out in 1861, and printings were continued until 1865.

In fact, the bills were issued so rapidly and in such large numbers that a paper shortage resulted. In those days, there was no manufacturing of paper from wood pulp. It all came from linen and cotton rags, and quite a bit of the paper then went into the Confederate bills was smuggled from England and even some of the Northern states. There were presses located in several spots below the Mason-Dixon line, but the principal ones were at Richmond, Va., and Columbia, S. C.

It is interesting to note that the first Confederate money issued at Montgomery, Ala. in 1861, was engraved and printed in New York City by the National Bank Note company. There were a lot of Southern sympathizers in Yankeeland, and they helped the cause along.

Unlike the United States dollar, as we know it today, a Confederate bill was intended to be interest bearing. If you happen to have a Confederate note, it probably bears an inscription promising that it will be redeemed six months of two years "after the ratification of a treaty of peace between the Confederate States and the



LEAVING HOME—Two year old Carter Hanes Willson (grandson of the Mirror's editor) has a chronic case of wanderlust, and here you see him making one of his periodic departures from the Willson town house in Alexandria, Virginia. Like all

other toddlers, he can travel without shoes, but not without his security blanket. Packing a lunch is unnecessary, as long as he has the middle two fingers of his left hand to enjoy to the fullest.