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MORE ABOUT SILVER.

Silver is worth twenty per cent. less than a few years ago. There must also be some cause for this beyond the power of control of the people, i. e. the law making power. If the government can, by its mere fiat, reduce the value of silver, why can it not, with propriety and success, say a pound of cotton is worth ten or twelve cents instead of eight, and must command that amount? No one wants silver, as a basis of money, demoralized; but why should the government be required to buy and hold it when it can be sold for a profit? Why should it be required to buy and hold it when it can be sold for a profit? Why should it be required to buy and hold it when it can be sold for a profit?

Our respected contemporary propounds some questions that it may be difficult for us to answer, but that will not prove that silver should be demoralized or that the Government is acting unfairly or dishonorably in causing the present silver dollar to be coined.

Gold has fluctuated in the past just as silver has in its value. Twelve years ago silver was worth more than gold was in its value. For fifty years—from 1830 to 1880—the entire supply of silver was wholly insufficient. Mr. Mulhall says that 5,730 tons of candlesticks, etc., were melted down for money uses. Gold and silver have been the standards of values in the United States since the Government was formed. But during that time gold and silver have fluctuated in value. The purchasing power of both metals has fallen very much since their coinage began by our Government. More than once the silver dollar has been more valuable than the gold dollar and vice versa. After gold was discovered in Australia and California silver was the more valued metal. The working of our silver minds by new processes, and the demoralization of silver by Germany, aided and abetted by the Secretaries of the Treasury in the United States, have combined to make silver of less value as a commodity than gold. In 1876, silver went down to 46 pence per ounce, but in 1881, it had risen to 51 1/2 pence per ounce. If new gold fields were to be discovered we have no doubt that gold would depreciate in value, as a large proportion of gold in the world is being manufactured at present instead of coined.

You cannot demoralize silver without endangering the currency. The greatest of American financiers, Hamilton, said that "to annul the use of either of the metals as money is to abridge the quantity of the circulating medium."

Our friend says silver is 20 per cent. less than it was a few years ago. He means the bullion value, and not face value. It is of course a fact that the silver dollar is not worth as much as they were, but they have just as great a purchasing value in 1886 as they had in 1860. Mark that. A silver dollar will buy in market now as much as a gold dollar. You cannot get the bankers to sell them for less than a dollar. Mark another thing. The silver dollar always contains 100 cents. When the Congress caused one pound of copper to be taken out of every two thousand dollars coined. But the amount of gold in the dollar has been reduced. In 1834, 67 per cent. was taken, thus debasing it heavily. Why was this done? But there are 100 cents of silver in every dollar coined, and this is as much as can be said for the gold dollar. It only contains 100 cents worth of gold. As that able writer on coinage, John A. Wier, says, it is not the fault of the Government "that the silver hundredth or cent is not worth quite as much as the gold hundredth or cent." He says in this there is no dishonesty, as the Government might "constitutionally reduce the weight of the gold dollar and make its bullion value equal to the silver dollar." Mr. Grier is confident that silver would soon go up to its old value if it was untampered with. He asks a question full of suggestiveness. It is this: "Who can say that it is not the gold dollar that has become dearer, and not the silver dollar that has become cheaper?" The purchasing power of the silver dollar is greater now than it was twenty-five years ago because the average fall in prices is greater than the decline in silver. We do not know that our friend will consider his question as answered, but we give some facts in connection with silver and gold that are worthy of contemplation.

The cause of the depression in the bullion value of silver is as indicated above with the important addition that the banks have been hostile to it, and have done all they would could to depreciate its value. If the enemies of silver could fully succeed they

would wipe out one-fifth of the measure of value and to that extent injure trade and undermine all contracts and bargains. This would give the banks full control. Mr. Alexander Del Mar, Mining Commissioner to the Monetary Commission of 1876, says in the North American Review for November in regard to the effects of demoralizing silver:

"It will practically relegate the future control of money to the banks, whose interest in it will tend them to as well as an inflation as now it invites to a vicious contraction. They already have absolute control over their own notes, they have control over a large proportion of the gold coin, and are trying to monopolize it all, and they are increasing their reserves in greenbacks which are payable in coin. The only portion of the money of the country not amenable to their control is the silver dollar, and this explains their hostility to it."

In a former article we discussed the effects of a contraction of currency and gave what the British historian, Archbishop Alison, said—that the contraction of currency in England which attended the resumption of specie payments by the Bank of England in 1821, "caused as much loss to money capitalists by lowering the rate of interest as to producers by lowering the price of commodities." It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the currency should be kept steady and the prices should be maintained. This is far more important than any question of international currency; a thing that does not exist.

We give a quotation from Mr. Grier's excellent treatise on American Coinage and the Depression in Prices. He says:

"It is somewhat remarkable that gold is the only commodity in the world which is not affected by a positive law, has fixed a price for, and offers to buy all that is presented for sale to them. This price is not fixed by any law, but by the market. You might as well look at the laws and not observe the fact. By the law of January 14, 1875, the gold standard of the United States was removed, and all gold offered must be coined by order of a former law. Hence gold is the metal that is not artificially favored, and has a forced valuation given to it by legislation. England and Germany have similar laws, giving gold a fixed, and at the same time a forced, bullion value."

So the Government, "by its mere fiat," has given it a positive value to gold. Why can it not do the same for silver?

A NEW PLAN.

The last Republican plan that has come to light is to make certain Northern States inevitably Republican. The Blaine and Logan set are in despair as to breaking the solid South. They have abused and slandered the Southern people; they have manufactured outrages; they have perverted facts; they have flapped their bloody shirt as an oriflamme of victory, and have tooted from the ramparts, morning and night, that the country was in danger from a new rebellion, and all it availed nothing. At last, in sheer desperation, they have acknowledged the failure, and are scheming to gain the needed votes in the doubtful Northern States. They think that importation is all that is necessary to win the next fight. The Philadelphia Times, a sagacious and wide-awake Independent paper, says:

"Ex-Congressman Daniels, of Buffalo, is said to be the originator of a scheme by which the copper coinage of the North is to be purely Republican. It is simply to import 20,000,000 of the copper coinage from the South, distribute them to the agricultural districts of the North, and let the places of an equal number of Democratic laborers, who by this arrangement would be compelled to make the copper coinage of the State for employment. This, it is thought, would make the State solidly Republican, and that not even the detection of the fraud would again give the Democrats a majority. His idea is that all the Republican money and brass should be devoted to the coinage of New York from Democratic dominion."

If this game is attempted let the New York Democrats raise a fund and bring over as many Irish Democrats and secure their homes. The Republican plan would not work, as two can play at that game as the Times says.

MOR LAW.

When the Chatham mob did its sweeping work the press of the State was outspoken in severe condemnation of the act. If mobs are to be the hanging in North Carolina then there is no use of the farce of trying men for their lives in the courts. The hanging of Lee by a mob at Rockingham is just one of those acts that are to be deplored. Nonetheless the wretch deserved hanging, but in a State that before the war was law-abiding above all others, and whose people were as little addicted to violence as any people under the sun, this usurping of the authority of the courts over life and death is out of place, and every good citizen should denounce it. In South Carolina the people seem inclined to prevent the execution of mob law, and to prosecute all who are engaged in it if they can be ascertained. That is a good example, and the law officers of North Carolina should not be slow in endeavoring to ferret out those who join mobs and engage in hanging men without any pretense of trial or any of the forms of law.

If the people would reflect seriously upon this grave matter they would be deeply moved at the prevalence of lynchings. No mob is fit to take life because of passion and prejudice. A man is adjudged guilty without investigation and is sent into eternity. Doubtless in the regular courts men are sometimes wrongfully punished, and even innocent men have been hanged. How must it be in hangings by a wild mob greedy for blood? If mobs are to prevail no man is safe. The law-abiding people will have to organize

against mobs for their own safety. And so violence begets violence, society is thrown into chaos, and the whole State suffers. Steps should be taken to crush out this reign of violence.

THEM HANGING.

In the North tree raising is regularly practiced. We do not mean putting up trees, but putting in the ground the seeds of chestnut, hickory, walnut, spruce pine and other trees. The methods necessary in cultivating each kind of tree is well understood and practiced. For instance, in a recent editorial, the Boston Post treated of the manner to plant seeds of different trees and of the pine and spruce gave these directions:

"The land owner who wants to improve all or part of vacant space (whether the pine or spruce cones, dries them, and when they crack open shakes out the seed and plants them in one of two methods. The first and simplest is, when there is a light fall of snow in the spring, to scatter the seed on the surface of the ground so that it may be covered by the snow. Seeds are then sown too thickly. The second method is to dig a shallow furrow about five feet apart, running around the hills rather than over them, following with a common vegetable seed planter. Or a man may, with a common corn hoe, dig flat holes about four or five feet apart, a boy with a pail of seed passing along with him and dropping three or four in each hole. In time the seeds will grow up, and the weeds destroyed a six-dollar umbrella and converted the steel ribs into hooks. He played the role of the lone fisherman day after day, hoping against hope for the arrival of a great vessel, while the workmen grew more and more impatient. After they had been on the island seven months, Captain Jeannette started on a daring voyage in one of the yaws in search of help. He had neither chart nor compass and had to trust altogether to his own experience to reach Jamaica. He allowed his boat to be governed by the trade winds, and after a voyage lasting from December 20th, 1884, to January 10th of this year, reached there. From Jamaica he went to Wilmington, N. C., and after treatment for rheumatism contracted on the daring voyage, went to New York.

The poor fellow left on the island kept fasted at his work, and by the latter part of May had collected 475 tons of guano. Some English vessels touched at the island, but the men had not money to pay their passage, and moreover, they still trusted that they would hear from either party. Captain Jeannette and his crew, fresh water supply was very meagre. Fortunately heavy rains set in later, and they managed to gather a supply. Their food consisted of fish, conchs, birds' eggs and boobies. These fowls came in flocks upon the shore. The conchs were very indigestible, and had to be abandoned as an article of food. The little bread which they had managed to keep was almost destroyed by weevils. Their shoes were all worn out, and their trousers and shirts were in shreds. They had almost abandoned all hope when the Pookhuan touched at the island on Nov. 25th last. They sailed away in the Pookhuan, leaving behind some six hundred tons of guano and all their tools. The officers and crew of the steamer were greatly interested in the poor fellows, and provided them with shirts, trousers and caps in place of the tattered clothing which they were when taken on board.

Capt. Jeannette feels very sorry for the men, but says that he himself is as much a victim as they are. He claims to have discovered Roanoke and three other islands back in the fifteenth century, and by the recognition of their own flag by the American Government. Although a partner with Gen. Schenck, E. L. Ritchie and Mr. Sloan in the scheme to work Roanoke Island, he served the law in regard to coin, &c.

He said the Treasury officials had violated the law they were bound to obey. We copy a brief paragraph: "No more statesmanlike message had ever emanated from the Executive Mansion, in Mr. Beck's opinion, than President Cleveland's first message, but he does not agree with the position of that message regarding silver. Three-fourths of our population are in favor of silver, and the laws of the United States were not carried out by our executive officers. Combinations of bankers and bondholders, and their agents, have conspired to bring about their present crusade against that metal which is another evidence of the audacity of the present administration of the President, which has always secured whatever they had demanded."

How is that? Mr. Dorman Eaton has announced that he will leave the Civil Service Commission in a few days. It is said that the Republicans look at him with suspicion and that his confirmation would have been refused but for his intention to speedily resign. What is the matter with Dorman? He is a Republican.

Senator Vest made an eloquent and able speech on his resolutions in regard to Austria and its treatment of Mr. Keiley. Senator Plumb was not as far out of the way, as some may think, when he advocated the abolition of the whole diplomatic service.

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The latest concerning the Vanderbilt estate is that it is worth far more than was at first estimated. It will go near \$400,000,000 than \$200,000,000, it is said.

A Black Santa Claus in Jail.

A correspondent of the Star, writing from Clear Run, Sampson county, says that a black man, whose name is not given, but who is known as the 'Black Santa Claus,' was arrested on Saturday last for effecting an entrance into the store of Mr. E. L. Pugh by going down the chimney. But he found the way too small and stuck fast in the flue—unable to get up or down. He remained in this position all night and was taken out the next morning and carried to jail in Clinton.

Foreign Reports.

The foreign export yesterday comprised 1,891 bales of cotton valued at \$37,128.08 and shipped to Liverpool by Messrs. Williams & Murchison, per Norwegian steamer Hyemess; 510 casks of spirits turpentine valued at \$9,045 shipped by Messrs. Patterson & Co., and 4,390 barrels of rosin valued at \$4,195 shipped by Messrs. Williams & Murchison, to London, Eng., per Norwegian barque G. Rodobro.

MARONED.

The Story of the Sailors Abandoned on a Guano Island.

The three sailors abandoned on a guano island in the Caribbean Sea, as related by Mr. J. W. Jeannette in an account published in the Star a few weeks ago, were rescued by the U. S. steamship Pookhuan, and have arrived at New York. They give new details of their hardships. In April, 1884, they and a dozen others contracted to work at piling guano on the island, the only habitable part of which is six hundred yards long and three hundred yards wide. They had only three months' provisions. They had no sooner landed than there was a dispute between Captain Jeannette, who claimed to be superintendent, and the captain of the vessel over the appointment of a Frenchman as foreman. Jeannette drew a line around a fort-like house in which were stored all the provisions, and threatened to kill the first man who crossed it. Jeannette, who is a small but determined man, carried his point and was left in charge of the men on shore. The vessel after taking five hundred tons of guano on board, set sail. In time a second ship carried away seven hundred tons of guano. After that no more vessels came to the island for two months. The three months were up and all the provisions gone. They caught some fish, but the fishing lines soon gave out and the hooks were lost. The captain tore up canvas and unravelled ropes and then twisted a new stock of fishing lines. He then destroyed a six-dollar umbrella and converted the steel ribs into hooks. He played the role of the lone fisherman day after day, hoping against hope for the arrival of a great vessel, while the workmen grew more and more impatient. After they had been on the island seven months, Captain Jeannette started on a daring voyage in one of the yaws in search of help. He had neither chart nor compass and had to trust altogether to his own experience to reach Jamaica. He allowed his boat to be governed by the trade winds, and after a voyage lasting from December 20th, 1884, to January 10th of this year, reached there. From Jamaica he went to Wilmington, N. C., and after treatment for rheumatism contracted on the daring voyage, went to New York.

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PORTER-NINTH CONGRESS.

REPORTS, MEMORIALS AND BILLS PRESENTED IN THE HOUSE UNDER THE CALL OF STATES—THE SUNDAY EVENING.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Chair laid before the Senate a letter from the Secretary of War transmitting reports, &c., relating to bridges in course of construction which may interfere with the free navigation of the navigable waters of the United States.

Mr. Mazy presented a memorial of the Western Mining Association, praying for the passage of a bill to amend the act of the 10th March, 1875, in relation to the vesting of the Mexican war claims.

Among the bills favorably reported and placed on the calendar, were the following: By Mr. Edmunds, from the Committee on the Judiciary, in reference to bigamy and polygamy in Utah. Mr. Edmunds said he would not offer the holiday recess.

By Mr. Hoar, from the same committee, an original bill to establish a uniform system of land and surveying in the United States. Mr. Hoar said he would ask the Senate to take up this bill as soon as possible after the holiday recess.

By Mr. Post, from the same committee, a bill to provide for the purchase of any existing lands, under the provisions of the act of 1850, at the lowest price that can be ascertained by a commission of five disinterested persons.

Among the bills introduced and approved by the Senate were the following: By Mr. Van Wyck, to provide for the organization of that part of the territory of the United States known as the Territory of Oklahoma, and to provide a temporary government for the same.

By Mr. Vest, offering the following preamble and resolution: Moved, That reference to a small precipice and rock in the State of Virginia, known as the 'Old Eagle,' be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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PENNSYLVANIA.

Boiler Explosion at Harrisburg—Six Men Injured—Outrage by Striking Miners.

(By Telegraph to the Morning Star.)

HARRISBURG, Dec. 23.—While testing the boilers at Lockport, Pa., on Monday morning, a boiler started up, and the works, which have been idle for the year, one of them exploded and scattered steam and debris in every direction. One or two persons were in the vicinity at the time and six were injured—two seriously. Thomas Welsh had his head cut off and was terribly scalded about the face from the waist down. His condition is considered dangerous. Wm. Pickens was struck in the stomach with a heavy piece of iron and received intestinal injuries that may result fatally. Both men were taken to the hospital. Two other men were scalded and slightly injured. The cause of the explosion is assigned to overcharging the boiler.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 23.—Work was commenced this morning on the new tunnel, No. 4 shaft, to reach the blocked gangway in No. 3 slope, where the bodies of the men are supposed to be. Work will be prosecuted night and day. A large force of miners, laborers and rock men. It is hoped that the bodies of the victims will be recovered in less than a month's time.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23.—At about 4 o'clock this morning seventy-five masked men put in an appearance at the old Eagle mines of the Erie Railroad Co., near this city. They were accompanied by a commission of five disinterested persons.

Among the bills introduced and approved by the Senate were the following: By Mr. Van Wyck, to provide for the organization of that part of the territory of the United States known as the Territory of Oklahoma, and to provide a temporary government for the same.

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PENNSYLVANIA.