

DEFENSE OF THE MILLIONS.

Arguments of a Gold-Bug Taken Up by President George G. Merrick, of the Colorado Silver League, and Successfully Controverted.

Mr. Matthew Marshall, a financial writer of the New York school, says that "the advocacy of the gold standard is not the advocacy of the cause of the few against that of the many, but the defense of millions of wage-earners against the comparatively few farmers of the west and planters of the south."

Before committing himself to so broad and sweeping a statement as that Mr. Marshall should have been very sure of the facts, and sure also that the facts squared with the truth.

According to Mr. Marshall the gold standard—"the outlawry of silver"—which has closed so many mills, factories, mines and other industries that employ labor, which has sent so many railroads, banks and trust companies into the hands of receivers, is in the interest of "wage-earners" beneficial to them, and injurious only to the "few farmers of the west and planters of the south."

The great staples of the farms and planters of the west and south for the crop of 1873 were produced on 2,600,000 acres of land, in the production of which something over one-half the entire population of the United States were engaged. And, had the prices received by them for that crop been the average prices paid for the same great staples during the year 1881 and 1885, these farmers and planters would have been paid \$645,000,000 more than they have received.

Of what avail is it to the mill hand, to the factory operative, to the wage earners of the Atlantic states and cities, that the materials for food and clothes are cheap when by the same cause that produced that cheapness he is deprived of employment and forced to eat the bitter bread of charity?

The enormous reduction in the purchasing power of the farmers and planters of the west and south, when examined in relation to the earnings of railroads, the operating of coal and iron mines, sufficiently explains why factories, mills, shops and railroads suffer from idleness or lack of earning capacity. And the all-sufficient explanation is found in an insufficient money volume, caused by the "gold standard." It were far better for every wage earner in the United States that all prices should have been maintained. In which event the farmers and planters, the miners of coal, iron, gold and silver, the railroad operatives, the great consumers of manufactured goods, would have money with which to buy them. Under the "gold standard" they have not the money; cannot get it; it don't exist. Therefore, mills, factories and shops must be idle, and must remain so until we, as a people, have sunk to the pauper labor level of Europe, or have restored the ancient landmarks of money by the coining of silver.

It will be difficult to condense into six lines of type more error, more misrepresentation, than is contained in the quotation from Mr. Marshall. The farmers and planters of the west and south make no attack upon the wage earners. The wage earners need no defense by the advocacy of "the gold standard." This gold standard is the fiend incarnate which robs both farmer, planter and wage earner, and it matters not whether this wage earner be dependent upon the farm, plantation, mill, factory, mine, railroad, store, shop or office, its merciless grip includes them all.

In the same article Mr. Marshall further says: "The truth is, the whole country, New York included, needs to have a more accurate knowledge of financial facts generally diffused among its citizens, and to have many popular financial errors exploded, before it can settle the currency disputes which are now raging." In the teachings of the Master certain persons were instructed to remove the beacons from out their own eyes before attempting to take the motes from their neighbors' eyes. This advice is respectfully recommended to Mr. Marshall in his treatment of the cause of the wage earner as it relates to the gold standard, or bimetallism.—George G. Merrick, in Denver News.

A FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

Can the United States or Any Other Debow or Nation Maintain the Single Gold Standard?

In order to maintain the single gold standard in any country there must be kept constantly on hand gold in some proportion to the currency to be redeemed. Assuming that the amount now in this country is sufficient to secure at all times prompt redemption in gold of all other forms of money, then, under these conditions, if the United States, or the people of the United States, owed nothing to other countries and other countries owed the United States nothing, it would only be necessary for us to sell commodities enough to pay for what we buy elsewhere to keep constant the difference. To be able to do this, however, prices of the commodities we sell must be as low in the United States as anywhere else, otherwise we could not sell enough to pay for what we imported. In case exports in this way are made to balance imports, no gold would have to be transferred either way, and there would be no disturbance in monetary conditions. But, if we fail to sell commodities enough to pay for what we buy abroad, then gold must be transferred to cover the difference; on the other hand, if the balance be in our favor, then gold would come to us. Under these conditions all that would be necessary to enable us to compete on even terms with other countries, would be to keep prices of commodities so dealt in at the international level of prices, by keeping the money volume properly restricted; otherwise the volume of money would be automatically reduced by the exportation of gold.

But take the situation as it actually exists between England and the United States, or between England and India. England has invested from ten to twelve thousand million dollars in other countries, the income from

which amounts probably to not less than \$500,000,000 annually, which is more than the combined value of our entire wheat and cotton crops for 1893. The United States, on the other hand, according to conservative estimates, owes to other countries, mostly to England, to be paid annually as interest, \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000. That is, in order not to be obliged to part with gold to settle balances, we must not only sell commodities enough to pay for what we buy, but to pay \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 interest on what we owe other countries besides. In order to do this, prices in this country must not only come down to the international level of prices but must go enough below that level to induce the rest of the world to buy of us \$200,000 to \$250,000,000 worth of commodities more than we buy of the rest of the world. Nor can tariffs materially change these conditions. It is admitted, however, that to the extent a tariff operates to check imports, it will tend to reduce the amount to be paid abroad; but if it operates to raise prices of the goods we export, and thereby to check exports, then it will, in so far, tend to neutralize the effect of a check on imports. Under these conditions, it will be seen how futile must be the attempt to keep up prices by currency or credit inflations. Such devices will only expedite the expulsion of gold by making it impossible to pay what we owe with commodities, and as gold is exported a violent contraction of credit always sets in, followed by a disastrous collapse of prices.

Now turn to England, a creditor nation, with an annual income of \$500,000,000; she may import \$500,000,000 worth of commodities more than she exports without having to transfer an ounce of gold to settle balances. It is not necessary, therefore, for prices of commodities, internationally dealt in, to be kept at as low a level in England as in other countries. She does not need to sell as much as she buys and never expects to. Individuals may and do suffer there as here, but as a nation England stands on a very different ground from that on which the United States stand. Nor is that all. England controls India absolutely, and can play imports from India against imports from the United States, and thereby keep down prices in both countries. This is exactly what England is now doing, especially with wheat and cotton.

Of course, in lieu of transferring gold to pay interest, or in settlement of balances, we can sell bonds as long as our creditors will take them. In other words, we can give new notes for interest due, as long as our creditors will be satisfied with that kind of payment, and that is really what we have been doing to a very large extent for many years. But that road leads necessarily to bankruptcy, and the longer it is followed the worse our condition becomes. The conclusion, therefore, is irresistible that no nation largely in debt can permanently maintain the single gold standard. And historically no debtor nation has ever been able to do so. Italy a few years ago bought with bonds, on which she now pays gold interest, \$200,000,000 in gold; but in a few years it was all gone, and gold is now at a premium in Italy of from 15 to 20 per cent. Indeed, even her coined silver has largely gone to France, and she is left at last with only convertible paper money. So it is with Spain, Portugal, Greece, and so with Australia and every South American state that had undertaken to establish the gold standard; and so it will be with Austria when she liberates her gold, and the United States will prove no exception if we pursue long enough the path we have so foolishly entered upon.

Under the bimetallic standard, with silver widely disseminated among the people, and constituting a principal part of the general supply of currency, the exportation of metal from accumulated stores to settle balances, would have little effect on the money volume as a whole. If gold left us at times, silver would always be at hand to take its place as basic money. But the difference is measurable if silver itself, or certificates representing it, is to be redeemed in gold, as must be the case with the single gold standard.—A. J. Warner, in N. Y. Sun.

A FINIAN LAY TRYANT.

The English people are a very shrewd people, says a southern exchange. For ages, when not engaged in internal dissension, they have been milking the balance of the world. There is not a country on the globe that has not, and is not now, paying tribute to Great Britain. The less civilized the nation the more she squeezes them. Sometimes her victims turn and fight. If it is not profitable to fight she soon makes peace, for nine times out of ten she is the aggressor. But because she makes peace it does not follow she will change her course. It is a determined power. They cut and come again in some other way, and generally get what they are after. Her power is pernicious and always fatal when she gets the influence she seeks. Look at Egypt, Turkey, India, China, South America and Mexico. All these countries have been her patrons. She traded almost exclusively with them, advised with them and loaned them large sums of money. They have paid the penalty. England succeeded in impressing some of our statesmen with the fact that what is good for England is good for the United States. England maintains the single gold standard. It is what her bondholders and money lending syndicates demand, and we have American statesmen who seem ever willing to play into the hands of this financial tyrant.

NO BACKING DOWN.

As soon as the president's veto was read in the house Representative Henderson, of North Carolina, submitted a bill for the coining of the silver seigniorage. The text is the same as the Bland bill, omitting the second section and some of the explanatory language of the first section. It directs the secretary of the treasury to coin as fast as possible the silver seigniorage into legal tender standard silver dollars.

The Procrastinationist.

There used to be a fellow who'd set an' tell what he'd do. He'd show 'em how to make a hit When once he got around to it. An' he was smart. No one'd doubt He knew what he was talkin' 'bout. It seemed jes' zif he'd clearly planned Success ne'er missed a "if" er "and."

He said he'd write a book in which 'twas certain he'd write it rich. He'd outline lots o' plans at 'em 'Ud bet 'at folks 'ud flock to see.

He had a lectur' on the string. He knew 'd draw like ever' thing. An' lots o' schemes to bring him gold. More an' a circus tent'd hold.

I've heard 'at fellow set an' split. His plans for scooping' up the tin Untold down in my bones I felt He's surely die a Vanderbilt.

When once he got right down to bis I knew the earth 'ud soon be his. An' when he ast me now an' ne'er I'd alders loan him five er ten.

The years went on as years'll do, An' he keep' on a talkin', too. Till in the potter's field one day They laid this man o' words away.

An' writ upon a slab above 'At soul 'at alders seemed to love To chin' chin' an' spin an' chin:

"Here lies a man who might have been."

—Nixon Waterman, in Chicago Journal.

Monon Ronke.

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HE—And would you marry a poor poet?" She—"I don't see how I could marry a rich one."—Life.

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SOMETIMES a man feels the lightest when he has a heavy load on.—Glen Falls Republican.

For strengthening and clearing the voice, "Brown's Bronchial Troches." "I have commended them to friends who were public speakers, and they have proved extremely serviceable."—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

"WHAT will you give me for a good spring poem?" "Five minutes! Skip!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

BEGINNING April 20, the great World's Fair spectacle "America" at McVicker's, Chicago. The phenomenal Schaeffer family appear in the spectacle. Seats secured by mail.

FEW people can stand prosperity; but they are legion compared with the people who never have a chance to stand it.—Puck.

PLEASANT, Wholesome, Speedy, for coughs is Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

The trouble with many of our poets is that they mistake their poetic license for a liquor license.—Atlanta Journal.

DOCTOR—"You cough more easily this morning!" Patient—"I ought to; I practiced all night."—Haloo.

HUSBAND—"Does that novel turn out happily?" Wife—"It doesn't say. It only says they were married."—N. Y. Weekly.

REPORTER—"I have a story here on heraldry." City Editor—"Give it to the knight editor."—Judge.

Fox form's sake—wearing a corset.—Lowell Courier.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 25.

LIVE STOCK—Cattle.....	\$3 40	4 70
Sheep.....	3 50	4 75
Hogs.....	5 00	5 65
FLUKE—Minnesota Patients.....	3 40	3 90
COW—Mil. Patients.....	4 05	4 80
WHEAT—No 2 Red.....	6 10	6 25
Upgraded Red.....	6 15	6 02
CORN—No. 2.....	4 40	4 45
Ingrated.....	4 40	4 55
OATS—C. & O. M. Western.....	60	40
RYE—Upgraded Western.....	60	35
POLEK—Miss. New.....	14 00	12 14
LARD—Western.....	8 05	8 75
BUTTER—Western Creamery.....	15	16
Western Dairy.....	11 14	15

CHICAGO.

BEEVES—Shipping Steers.....	\$3 00	4 60
Cows.....	1 00	1 30
Stockers.....	2 80	3 10
Feeders.....	3 30	3 80
Butchers Steers.....	3 10	3 30
Bulls.....	2 00	2 50

HOGS.

Sheep.....	4 00	4 50
BUTTER—Creamery.....	10	10
Dairy.....	12	18
EGG—Pork.....	9 1/2	10 1/2

BROOM CORN.

Western (per ton).....	30 00	25 00
Western Dwarf.....	50 00	47 00
Illinois Good to Choice.....	45 00	47 00

POTATOES (per bu.).....

60	60	90
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POLEK—.....

12 30	12 40	12 50
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LARD—Steak.....

7 00	7 25	7 50
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FLOUR—Spring Patients.....

3 20	3 30	3 50
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Spring Straights.....

2 20	2 20	2 30
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Winter Patients.....

2 80	3 00	3 10
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WINTER FRUIT—

2 60	2 75	2 90
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GRAIN—Wheat, Corn.....

58 1/2	58 1/2
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Corn, No. 2.....

58 1/2	58 1/2
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Oats, No. 8.....

22 1/2	22 1/2
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1/2 Rye, No. 2.....

45 1/2	45 1/2
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1/2 Rye Good to Choice.....

51	50
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KANSAS CITY.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers.....	16 00	22 30
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Flooring.....

8 00	23 00
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Common Boards.....