

HON. JOHN L. WEBSTER.

He Delivered a Second Speech on the Silver Question Last Year.

It was Before the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, at Omaha, November 28th, 1895.

The report of the majority of the committee is based on the assumption, one that runs through every argument in favor of free coinage of silver, that there is an appreciation in gold which increases the wealth of the creditor and diminishes the wealth of the debtor. The form which the proposition has assumed, or rather the words in which it is clothed, are such as to appeal to the prejudices of the poor man and excite his animosity and his hatred against the man of wealth, an argument which may be effective but not the most highly creditable.

I have not been able to convince myself that there is any appreciation in the value of gold. I am not skilled in reasoning upon this question theoretically and can only deal with it as I find facts pointing the way to truth.

For there to be an appreciation in the value of gold it seems to me as fundamental either that there should be a diminution in the quality of the metal or the demands for the use of the metal should be increasing in a greater ratio than does its production. We have not the time to go over the history of the production of gold and the production of silver during any great period of time.

The height of the silver agitation has been since 1890, and during these same years the country has gone through the most direful distress. Silver agitation and hard times seem as much linked together as the Siamese twins. If there is any possible condition of things which should have produced an appreciation in gold, these twin sisters, financial depression and free silver agitation most likely would have produced it.

Let us look at a few facts, however, existing during the last five years. Secretary Carlisle stated in his speech before the Memphis convention that the gold product of the United States in 1890 was \$118,849,000. I do not know what means of information the secretary had to justify him in making the statement, but I assume that he would not make a statement which he did not believe to be true, and I further assume that with the means at his command he resorted to the most trustworthy sources to obtain the most reliable information.

A few days ago I read in the *World-Herald* the statement that the gold product of the United States in 1894 was \$180,626,100. As this paper is edited by my friend Bryan, the champion of free silver, and the statement purports to be taken from the report of the director of the mints, I must assume as to this statement that it also is correct.

An instant's comparison of these two statements shows that during the four years when the business of this country was on the down grade and when there existed the least demand for money, that the gold product had increased more than 50 per cent. or \$61,777,100, and certainly no man would contend that the business of this country had increased in any such like ratio during those four years. There is nothing here to indicate an appreciation in gold, and according to the rule of supply and demand, there should have been a depreciation.

A momentary glance at this question during a century past. Those who pretend to know most upon this question, those who by reason of their position and public duties ought to know the truth of these things, say that the per capita gold production in 1895 was greater than the per capita production of both gold and silver one hundred years ago. If this be true, there is certainly nothing in this fact to indicate an appreciation in the value of gold, but it would rather tend to indicate a depreciation in the value of gold in the ratio which the product of silver stands to the product of gold during those four years.

I know that they tell us that the price of wheat has gone down 50 per cent. and further the purchasing power of gold has been enhanced 100 per cent. That statement proves nothing because it does not prove that the value of gold has had anything whatever to do with the depreciation in value of the wheat product.

If you want to point to a more certain criterion touching the value of money, point to the day's labor of the mechanic and look to the purchasing power of the wages which he received. Why, sirs, the senate committee reported that during the last thirty years the wages of the laborers of this country had increased 34 per cent. I find by the compilation of the census reports of 1890 that during ten years the amount of wages of the laborers of this country had increased 40 per cent.

Today the tolling millions of this country receive the higher wages and payable in money equivalent in value to the gold dollar. The result is that the purchasing power of the compensation received by the people who labor, under the present financial condition of affairs is greater than during any previous period of this country, when my free silver friends contend that we had the free and unlimited coinage of both metals. We who are in favor of the minority report of the committee are the true friends of the laboring man in this country, and the free silver advocates are their enemies, in that they would pay them the same per diem in a depreciated coin.

It is not, however, alone the amount of gold in circulation in the country that must determine whether it had depreciated in value, but it is the amount of the entire circulating medium maintained on a parity with gold, whether that medium be gold, silver or paper. When theoretically you speak of the question of supply and demand, we can have but one criterion to measure that supply and demand by, which is the entire amount of the circulating money in the country.

The amount of the circulating money has been constantly increasing in this country from the time when my friends talked of the demonetization of silver down to 1895. While in 1880 the entire amount of the circulating medium was \$973,000,000, in 1895 the amount of circulating medium was \$1,804,000,000. Why, mark you, here was an increase in fifteen years of nearly 100 per cent. These startling facts are a complete answer to the unwarranted assertion of my free silver friends that the demonetization of silver in 1873 struck down and wiped out of existence one-half the money of the country.

The advocates of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the present ratio, with uniformly assert that the financial disasters of the last three years are the result of the demonetization of silver. I cannot understand how any man who reflects can have the courage to make such a statement. The act to which they refer, as demonetization of silver, was passed in 1873. If silver was demonetized, it was demonetized then, and there; if that act struck down silver, and destroyed one-half of the money of the country and brought about the marvelous appreciation of gold, such events took place more than twenty-two years ago. If ruin and disaster and destruction were the natural and necessary outgrowth of the act of 1873, they would have followed fast after the enactment of the law which should have brought them into existence.

The history of this country from 1873 to 1891 stands as proof that none of the present existing evils were the outgrowth of the act of 1873. The greatest era of prosperity this country has ever known from the days of George Washington down to Grover Cleveland were from 1873 to 1891. During those years there were better prices, better wages, more factories running, more cities being built, more farms being opened up, and more enterprises developed than during any previous like period of time in our country's history.

Another test generally resorted to by all thinking men by which to measure the prosperity of the Nation, is its foreign commerce; that is something which ought to appeal to this congress, as both are of a commercial nature. In 1892 the foreign trade of the United States reached the enormous sum of \$1,857,680,698. That was under the closing year of the Republican administration of Benjamin Harrison, and under the fostering care of the McKinley tariff law—the like of which had never been seen before, and has not been experienced since.

Those who undertake to trace the hard times of the last three years to the money question, ought to open their eyes wide enough to see that the pernicious effect of the tariff act have had much to do with bringing about these frightful results. Why, within three years it has reduced the foreign trade of this country \$306,256,000.

Under the results of that free trade policy, American exports decreased in 1893, \$143,000,000, and in 1894 \$167,000,000, and from 1894 to 1895, \$49,000,000.

The agriculturist says, however, the price of the agricultural products have fallen as a result of the demonetization of silver. I tell him that these reductions in prices have taken place since the agitation of the free trade policy and after the silver question has taken possession of the country. According to the reports of the secretary of the treasury, the decrease in exports of agricultural products in 1895 over that of 1894 was \$58,727,552; while as a reverse to the proposition the increased imports from foreign manufactured goods from 1894 to 1895 was \$108,954,000.

If your complaint is that our money is drifting away to Europe, let congress remodel the tariff system to something like what it was before 1892, and then there will be saved to us this \$108,954,000, which is used in settling the accounts with Europe on the basis of the pound sterling in England.

The so-called demonetization of silver in the various civilized countries of the world has not destroyed the use of silver as money. From the last re-

port of the director of the mint, and I take this, too, from the *Omaha World-Herald* of November 25, the amount of gold in the world is \$4,086,800,000, the amount of full legal tender silver \$5,449,300,000, the amount of subsidiary silver coin is \$631,200,000, thus making the total silver money of the world equal to the total gold money of the world.

This leads us to make the suggestion, that, whereas, the total amount of the coin value of the silver money in the world is equal to the total coin value of the gold money of the world, how comes it that the silver standard countries are unable to maintain their silver on a parity with gold? Being equal in quantity they would be equal in purchasing power, were it not for the fact that the over-abundant production of silver compared to the annual production of gold has depreciated the value of the silver metal, and all the powers of earth cannot keep the increased quantity of silver on a parity with gold in the business transactions of the world.

In reading the various speeches and editorials of my silver friends, I have found such a diversity of statements touching the product of gold and silver that I have come nearly to the conclusion that they are unreliable and unsafe, if not dangerous, guides in the study of this question.

I want to go to the most reliable source, and I know no source on which an American can rely with greater certainty than the report of the director of the American mints. He reports the gold product of the United States for 1895 in coin value to be \$30,500,000; he reports the product of silver to be 49,500,000 ounces of a commercial value of \$31,422,000, but of a coined value under the present ratio of sixteen to one \$64,000,000.

It will thus be seen that the production of silver according to its coin value, is annually sixty per cent. greater than the production of gold, or an excess of \$24,500,000 in one year. As a fair minded man I put to you the proposition, could you possibly continue the free and unlimited coinage of both metals with an annual production of silver sixty per cent. greater than the production of gold, and hope to maintain a parity of the two metals?

From the same source look to the product of the gold and silver in the world at large. The gold product of the world in 1894 coin value was \$180,626,100. The commercial value of the world's product of silver was \$106,522,900, and its coin value \$216,892,200. From this statement you are met with two startling propositions: First, the free and unlimited coinage of silver on the theory that the parity of the metals is to be maintained, would be to give to the owners of the silver bullion \$110,369,300. Who is asked to give it? The nation. What is the equivalent? Nothing. What benefit would it be to the agriculturist or the laborer? None whatsoever. Second, by comparison of the production of the two metals, it will be observed that the coin value of silver annually exceeds that of gold, \$36,166,100. Can the most conservative man even hope to throw open the mints of America to all the silver of the world regardless of the action of any other nation, and thus coin and throw into circulation \$36,166,100 in excess of the entire world's product of gold annually, and hope to maintain the parity of the two metals for a single hour? Why, if such a law would be passed this afternoon, before the sun should go down tomorrow this country would be on the verge of such financial distress and ruin as no words of mine or yours could fitly describe.

I do not believe any sensible man would be in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver under existing conditions if he did not believe it would increase the quantity of the circulating medium. My apprehension is that the free and unlimited coinage of silver under present existing conditions would either destroy or drive out of use more than one-half of the present money of the country, and if persisted in you men who are listening to me would be in your graves before the country would go back to the money standard and money circulation as good as we have today.

It was lately stated by the secretary of the treasury in a public speech that the money in circulation in this country was as follows:

Gold	.....	\$631,000,000
United States Notes	.....	346,000,000
Treasury Notes 1890	.....	148,000,000
National Bank Notes	.....	211,000,000
Subsidiary Silver	.....	76,000,000

My first proposition is that the free and unlimited coinage of silver would drive the \$631,000,000 of gold out of circulation. I have said enough heretofore by way of argument to show that it would be impossible to maintain a parity of the two metals by reason of the over-abundance of the silver production, but aside from that I appeal to history. History is a wiser teacher than theorists. What country in the world today maintains the free and unlimited coinage of the two metals and has gold in circulation? None. What country in the world ever maintained gold in circulation, with the free and unlimited coinage of both metals, except when the commercial value of the

two metals were at par as a commodity? None.

We know further that from the time the free silver agitation began in this country a few years ago, there has been a disposition to gather and hoard gold. Then began a reduction of the payment of tariff duties in gold. Then began the presentation of American securities by foreign holders for their redemption in gold. Since then the public treasury has been constantly drained of its gold, and this thing went on, until at last the verge of the cyclone made its appearance which was to overwhelm and destroy the financial credit of this country, and had it not been for the strong personality of the President of the United States, who took it upon himself at great cost and great risk, to sell American bonds to replenish the treasury, this country would already have been upon a silver basis and the \$631,000,000 gold have gone out of circulation.

But that is not all of the havoc to be wrought. The currency of the country, to wit: the \$346,000,000 United States notes, the \$148,000,000 treasury notes of 1890; and the \$211,000,000 national bank notes, aggregating \$705,000,000 have their purchasing power passed upon the gold valuation. You sweep the gold out of circulation and supply its place with degenerated silver, and in like measure you reduce the purchasing power of the \$705,000,000 of circulating currency, destroying the purchasing power of that currency to the extent of \$350,000,000. The total destruction of the purchasing power of the money of the country by this process would be about \$981,000,000 as the natural, legitimate and logical result of the super-abundant coinage of the depreciated silver of the world.

Some of my free silver friends practically admit the force of this logic, admit the country should pass to the silver basis, and to silver monometalism. They accept the logical conclusions of the situation, but have they ever counted the cost of the destruction of the money of the people and the slow process by which it is to be reinstated by the free coinage of silver? Why, according to the reports of the director of the mints the annual coining capacity of the mints of the United States is but \$40,000,000 a year. Why, it would take sixteen years to coin enough silver to take the place of gold alone which we would drive out of circulation, and it would take ten years more to coin enough to take the place of the destroyed value of the currency, thus some twenty-six years would have gone by before my free coinage friends can hope to restore the money of the country to the present existing amount.

I know my free silver friends have a common answer to substantial data and facts presented by the people who would maintain the honor and financial integrity of our country, and that answer consists generally in bombastic declamation containing such epithets and allusions as "Gold Bugs" and "plutocrats" and "What care we for England." "We didn't ask England for the privilege of declaring for American independence, why need we ask England now to declare our independence on the money question?"

These star spangled banner arguments may satisfy free silver men, but in the face of historic and stubborn facts they have not the weight of the summer zephyr. The United States to maintain its supremacy among the commercial nations of the world must have as good money and as good credit as its commercial rivals. With an inferior money we could neither punish England nor enrich ourselves, and those who entertain such a thought are harboring one of the greatest delusions of the age.

Secretary Carlisle in his speech at Bowling Green, Ky., on the 25th of May, 1895, stated five propositions that are worthy of the consideration of every thinking man on this question. Permit me to read them:

First—That there is not a free coinage country in the world today that is not on a silver basis.

Second—That there is not a gold-standard country in the world today that does not use silver as money along with gold.

Third—That there is not a silver-standard country in the world today that uses any gold as money along with silver.

Fourth—That there is not a silver-standard country in the world today that has more than one-third as much money in circulation per capita as the United States have; and

Fifth—That there is not a silver-standard country in the world today where the laboring man receives fair pay for his day's work.

Mr. Carlisle stated that he was ready to maintain these propositions anywhere; that he stated them deliberately after a careful examination of the monetary statistics of the commercial and industrial systems of the countries. So far as I have observed no man has undertaken to answer these propositions. I personally do not believe that any free silver man can answer these propositions. Until they are answered it is idle for free silver people to say that with a free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of

sixteen to one that we can either maintain the parity of the two metals or that we can have gold and silver in circulation, or to maintain that with free silver we can either have more money or a better monetary system than we now have.

MONASTERY SCANDALS.

Continued from page 1.

missioners' conclusions. Dr. Cox said: "We must above all things diminish the wealth of the monasteries, for so long as they do not imitate the poverty of Christ the people will not follow the teachings of the clergy. I have no doubt," he added with irony, "that the bishop, priests and monks will readily free themselves from the heavy burden of wealth of every kind, which renders the fulfillment of their spiritual duties impossible." The ambassador of Venice said: "The income of the monasteries amounts to 500,000 ducats, while that of all the nobility of England is only 350,000. The treasures which the convents derive from the nation ought no longer to be useless to the nation."

In February, 1536, this matter was laid before parliament. It was Thomas Cromwell whose heavy hand struck these receptacles of impurity, who was called "the hammer of the monks," who proposed this great reform. He laid on the table of the commons that famous Black Book, in which were inscribed the misdeeds of the religious orders, and desired that it should be read to the house. This book is no longer in existence; it was destroyed in the reign of the bloody Queen Mary, by those who had an interest in its suppression. But it was read before the members of the commons, i. e., the horrible confessions of the monks and nuns, signed with their own hands. The effect was extraordinary, for men had had no idea of such abominable scandals (Latimer's Sermon). The house was horror-stricken, and "Down with them, down with them!" was shouted on every side. Cromwell restricted himself for the moment to the secularization of three hundred and seventy-six cloisters. "These monasteries," said Cromwell, "being the dishonor of religion, and all the attempts, repeated through more than two centuries, having shown that their reformation is impossible, the king proposes to the lords and commons, and these agree, that the possessions of the said houses shall cease to be wasted for the maintenance of sin, and shall be converted to better uses."

There was immediately a great commotion throughout England. Some rejoiced and some wept. About 10,000 monks and nuns were secularized on the 4th of February, 1536. This added to the crown a yearly rental of £32,000 sterling, besides the immediate receipt of one hundred thousand pounds sterling, in silver, jewels, and other articles. (Such an act would make Mr. Cleveland's bonds unnecessary, and would pay Uncle Sam's debts.) Some of the convents were used as stables for his majesty's horses, others for the comfort of the sick, and blind, and crippled.

Lord Cromwell was neither a Democrat nor a Republican. The abbot of Peterborough endeavored to bribe him and said: "If you will save our house, I will give the king two million five hundred marks, and yourself three hundred pounds sterling." Collyer's Rec. II, 156 159. But neither the eloquence of the monks, their prayers, their promises, nor their money could move that great Englishman.

Some abbots revolted against the king, but Cromwell forced them soon to submit. The monks received a pension; those who desired to continue in their religious life were sent to the larger monasteries. Many were dismissed with a few shillings for their journey and a new gown. Fuller Church History, 311. "As for you," the commissioners said to the young monks under twenty-five, "you must earn a living by the work of your hands." The same rule was applied to the nuns.

England found in this energetic act one of the sources of her greatness, instead of the misfortunes with which she was threatened. When greedy eyes began to covet the revenues of Cambridge and Oxford, Henry said: "I will not permit the wolves around me to fall upon the universities." And the incomes of a few convents were employed for the foundations of new schools. An eloquent voice said to the king: "O most invisible prince, great is the work that you have begun. Christ has laid the foundation; the apostles raised the building. But barren weeds had overrun it. Now you have rejected the weeds, and banished the race of monks. We pray that those houses of cenobites should be held in their academic halls a generous youth, eager to be taught, and learned men to teach them. Let the light which has been restored to us spread its rays through all the universe and kindle other torches so that darkness should flee all over the world before the dawn of a new day."

This wealth served to fortify England. The kingdom took a step in the career of power. By the reformation of the convents the moral force of the nation gained still more than the material force; and England (U. S. A., too), freed from subjection to foreign power, could oppose her enemies with

a sword of might and a front of iron. And Uncle Sam's boys can do the same!

To this great epoch we must ascribe the origin of those mercantile enterprises, of those long and distant voyages which were to be one day the strength of Great Britain, for Henry VIII. was truly the father of Elizabeth. The great transformation extended soon its influence beyond the western shores of Great Britain. Spain and Italy alone remained almost motionless in the midst of their ancient darkness. But now the same Roman tyranny will darken and chain fair Columbia! Therefore, awake, awake, O sons of liberty! If every loyal young man would fight for the principles of the A. P. A., the new American party, we could write on the tombstone of the Roman hierarchy, A. D. 1900, as follows:

"Quam, A. D. 1900. Profligata Romani Antichristi Tyrannide—Abrogataque ejus superstitionibus Garco—Sancta Christi Religio—Hic in suam puritatem—Ecclesia (civitas) in meliorem ordinem—Singulari Dei beneficio reposita—Et simul pulsatis fugatisque hostibus—Urbs ipsa in suam libertatem—Non sine insigni miraculo restituta fuerit—Senatus Populusque Genovesis—Monumentum hoc perpetuae causa fieri—Atque hoc loco erigi curavit—Quo suam erga Deum gratitudinem—Ad posterum testatum faceret." In the year 1900, the tyranny of the Roman anti-Christ having been overthrown, and its superstitions abolished, the independence having been restored, in its truth and purity, and the states of our union set in good order, by a signal favor of God the enemy having been repelled and put to flight, and the cities by a striking miracle restored to liberty, the congress and the people of the United States have erected and set up this monument as a perpetual memorial to attest to future ages their gratitude to God."

Erected and inscribed after Geneva's independence from the Roman tyranny and renewed after Columbia's independence from the Roman tyranny by the United New American Party.

What Masons Say.

The *Masonic Record* thinks too much notice is taken of Rome's enmity to Masonry. Nevertheless, it is always prudent to be alert against an avowed enemy. This is especially true when that enemy would destroy civil and religious liberty whenever it exists.—*Voice of Masonry*.

Every masonic body in the United States ought to know, and cause it to be understood by their members, that the sanguinary Captain-General of Cuba has ordered all Masonic lodges closed under severe penalty. We presume he is acting from instructions from the Roman pope, and nothing would please the old man better than another "auto da fe," with Masons burned at the stake as of old. As the leader of the Cuban patriots is a 33<sup>d</sup> Mason we ought all to at least pray for the speedy recognition of the Republic and the downfall of misrule, bigotry and superstition in that unhappy island.—*Kansas Freeman*.

I have been taught as a Mason that my first duty is to God, the second to my country. In performance of that duty I call your attention to the fact that the Roman pontiff, who, as well as his predecessors, have for centuries tried to crush our beloved fraternity, has now placed under the papal ban three distinctly American benevolent orders, which would indicate that the pope feels assured that he has sufficient control of the government of this country to dictate the conduct of its people. As Masons it becomes our duty to the country to carefully watch and do all in our power to prevent this semi-barbarous potentate from obtaining control of our country's government and thereby setting civilization back to the days of the inquisition.—*P. A. Boyle of Nevada*.

But They Were "Insulted" Just the Same.

The following letter from "Father" Wyman appeared in the *Examiner*, the organ of Rome in San Francisco, on June 15th, but the bluff did not work and the only feature of the Fourth of July parade which raised hiss or cheer was the natty Little Red School-house escorted by the redoubtable Junior Order which was out in force and feature of the procession:

The following letter has been received by the president of the Fourth of July committee:

SACRAMENTO, Cal., June 17, 1896.

MR. S. L. LENT:

Dear Sir—I was very glad to see your letter in this morning's *Examiner*. My object in giving a copy of my letter to your committee to the press was you might be induced thereby to make a public declaration as to whether or not you intend to allow in the procession displays which are offensive to Catholics, such, for instance, as that of "The Little Red School-house." The event will show whether or not you keep to the promise which you have made in your letter to me. There is a general impression among priests and Catholics that the A. P. A. will be allowed to insult us publicly on that day. If the publication of my letter prevents any such demonstrations I shall be most thankful. Sincerely yours, H. H. WYMAN, C. S. P.