

SILVER VS. GOLD COIN.

Why Silver Coin is Now as Good as Gold Coin.

FROM R. G. HERR'S PEN.

What Would Make It About Half as Good—The Money Question Ably Discussed From a Business Standpoint.

Gold and Silver Coin.

Roswell G. Herr has been engaged by the New York Tribune to discuss the leading questions of the day through the columns of that paper. In this weeks issue the following article is found:

Will Mr. Herr please answer the following questions in the Weekly Tribune:

First—Is the United States government obliged by law to exchange gold coin for silver certificates or silver dollars?

Second—Can the United States government redeem coin certificates with silver dollars, or must the gold be paid?

Third—Can a person legally demand gold coin for the greenbacks or treasury notes of the United States government?

OTIS G. PARKER.

Moravia, N. Y., Dec. 2, 1891.

Questions 1 and 2 are so nearly the same that I will answer them together. The law does not oblige the government to exchange gold coin for silver certificates or silver dollars. Indeed the silver certificates are, by their very terms, payable in silver standard dollars. The gold certificates, on their face, are redeemable in gold coin. The law permits the secretary of the treasury to redeem such certificates in the kind of coin that he may prefer, with this exception: The holder of silver certificates would have a right to demand silver dollars, and the holder of gold certificates would have a right to demand gold dollars. In either case, however, could the holder actually compel the United States government to pay in any coin different from that stated in the certificate. Nor is the United States government compelled by law to exchange gold coin for silver coin. Neither does the law compel it to give silver coin for gold coin.

As regards the third question: The greenbacks are a promise of the United States to pay their face in "coin." It is entirely at the option of the government to make such payment in either gold or silver coin, as the officers of the government may prefer.

The foregoing answers to the questions of this correspondent would seem to be complete; and yet, if I should leave these simple statements of the law unexplained, I fear that my answer would be misleading as to the actual facts. Up to date it has been the custom of the treasury department to permit the holder of any government certificate or government obligation to select the kind of currency he shall receive, either in the payment of his claim or in the redemption of his certificate. That practice has enabled the holders of silver coins into silver certificates; and then, when desired, to convert these silver certificates into gold coin at their pleasure. This easy conversion of any one kind of money into any other, and the possibility of receiving gold coin for any and every kind of government money without expense to the holder is the existing fact which has kept all the money of the United States of equal value so long to all the people of the United States. Just so long as one can exchange a national bank note for a greenback, and then without expense convert that greenback into its face in gold, just so long greenbacks, national bank notes and gold will remain of equal value. Just so long as the government will permit the holders of gold and silver certificates to make their own choice and to receive the face of such certificates in gold if they demand it, just so long the silver dollar, the gold dollar, the silver certificate and the gold certificate will all remain of equal value. Such has been the case now for several years. The silver dollar, which is not intrinsically worth over seventy cents today, is kept at par by the fact that the government treats it as being worth its face in gold.

It is proper to state at this point that heretofore the confidence of the people has been so complete in all the different kinds of national currency that very little demand has been made for the redemption of any of its paper currency or for the exchange of one kind of coin for another. Should there be an attempt on the part of the people to convert their holdings of national money into gold, no doubt the secretary of the treasury would at once avail himself of his legal rights. He would refuse to pay out the gold exchange for gold certificates, and, perhaps, for greenbacks, there being, under the law, a large gold reserve kept all the time in the treasury for the redemption of the greenbacks. The moment that the

United States government should refuse to pay out gold, except as above, that moment gold and gold certificates would be worth a premium; they would, in a little while, disappear from the currency of this country. It is this fact which leads so many careful business men to fear the result of issuing monthly so large an amount of the new silver treasury notes as is required under the law which provides for the large purchase of silver each month by the United States government.

The currency problem in this country is at the present time a serious one. Just how long we can continue to increase the volume of paper money, based upon the purchase of such an enormous amount of silver, while that metal is constantly depreciating in the markets of the world, is hard to answer. The monetary conference, which has just adjourned in Europe without reaching any valuable conclusion, shows what a complex and difficult problem it was trying to solve. That conference was composed of able financiers, selected from all the leading nations of the world. Its members were full of expedients, proposed various plans, and yet adjourned without agreeing upon a single remedy. There seemed to be no difference of opinion as to the gravity of the situation. The members all agreed that something ought to be done. Just what to do, however, was a puzzle they could not solve. Not only did the leading nations differ among themselves, but the members from hardly a single nation could arrive among themselves at a conclusion which was satisfactory to all the delegates from that single nation. Yet one will run across many men in the United States who will not hesitate to settle this question at once and forever. The flippancy with which some of these American financiers handle a problem which staggers the best business brains of the world is to me amusing.

I have been for two years, in season and out of season, trying to impress upon my readers the great difficulty of the money problem which today confronts the people of this nation. Very many times I have questioned my own ability to reach any satisfactory solution. Those statements were made not because of lack of investigation on my part, but because the more I study the problem, the more complicated it becomes.

There is no one thing which excites more constantly into and contributes more to the prosperity of a nation than a good sound currency. A measure of value which shall fluctuate as little as possible is certainly most desirable. The business of the United States aggregates each year such an enormous sum, the wages of the people who work at daily toil for a living have reached an aggregate so wonderful, the product of shops and farms and mines has come to be so immense, that the money used in all these almost infinite transactions is a question of immense importance. It may be that the fears of thoughtful men as to the results which would follow the adoption of the schemes of our modern financial wonders are not well grounded. To hear these men talk one would think the problem so easy as to deserve hardly a passing notice. It does not seem so to me. Whenever I hear a person claiming that the whole thing can be settled by simply passing a "free coinage act," which, he tells me, will at once restore silver to its former proud position among the metals of the world, the feeling creeps over me, in spite of all that I can do, that he has not the least conception of the real merits of the question he finds so easy of solution. It may be that I magnify its difficulties and its importance. It may be that this is one of the questions which will never be solved except through the agency of blundering experience. There have been many instances in the world where glittering theories failed when put to the test of actual results. Sometimes the world learns its mistakes only through the most fearful realities. The problems of life are so complicated and the powers of the infinite mind so limited that we are compelled to act part of the time in the dark. In such cases the proper way for us all is to use wisely and honestly the best knowledge we possess, to strike out courageously for the future and trust to the logic of events.

R. G. HERR.

Try the "Crown" cough cure. Brown & Barret guarantee it.

A large number of the friends of Mrs. Henry Weckbach gathered at her home on the corner of Vine and seventh street last evening to remind her that she had arrived at her fortieth anniversary. A pleasant time was had by those who were present. In the evening the Bohemian band played several selections at the residence.

POISONED THE FAMILY.

Joe Williams Wanted in Omaha on a Serious Charge.

FORMERLY LIVED HERE.

Claimed That He Put Poison in the Coffee—His Father-in-Law's Family the Victims—Still At Large.

Poisoned the Family.

Joe Williams, a young (colored) man who is well known in this city and who was in the employ of Jas. Muir and afterwards an employee of the Hotel Riley annex, has, so the Omaha papers say, poisoned the family of his father-in-law.

Williams was married in this city last summer to a Miss Ewing. He has recently been an employe of the Millard hotel at Omaha. The other morning he went home, but found his better half missing. After considerable search she was located in a colored dive in the burnt district. Williams proceeded to give her a good sound thrashing and then went up to his father-in-law's house. The World Herald tells the rest of the story: "Here are two people laying deadly sick and one dead in the house of F. Ewing, a policeman living at 3113 Franklin street. They are Ewing himself, his wife and their 13-year-old son Albert. Poison is the cause.

When the Ewings, who are colored people of the well-to-do sort, were at breakfast yesterday it was noticed that the coffee served had a peculiar flavor and the man asked about it. No particular attention was paid to it for a few minutes, when the little boy who had drunk a cupful of the liquid was taken sick. Ewing and his wife had not swallowed nearly so much of the coffee were still able to care for the child, but in a short time the mother, too, was overcome. Ewing was frightened by this time and realized that poison was the cause of the trouble. He hurried to the house of a neighbor and procured some sweet milk, after which he went down to Twenty-fourth street to get a physician. On the way he was taken sick and finding the office of Drs. Wood and Alexander he was by them treated for poison.

The doctors also went out to his house and satisfied themselves by examination that Mrs. Ewing and the boy were suffering from poison. The two were in a desperate strait when medical assistance arrived and the boy is still in a critical condition.

Ewing was not slow to attach the blame to Joe Williams, his son-in-law, with whom the family has had much trouble. He has, according to the story of Ewing, threatened the lives of the family several times and only a few days ago, after an especially serious quarrel, which resulted in his dismissal from the house, where he had been living a note was found stuck to the door warning them, and signed by Joe Williams. Williams was at the house yesterday afternoon and was alone in the cellar where the coffee is kept. He has not been seen since then by the Ewing family. He is described as a young man about 22 years old, roughly dressed, and with a highly developed antipathy to work of any kind.

The physicians are not certain as to the identity of the drug and are not sure whether or not it may not be something administered for the purpose of simply sickening the Ewings. Albert Ewing died yesterday afternoon."

More About Williams.

Yesterday THE HERALD contained an account of the poison of a family in Omaha by Joe Williams formerly of this city. This morning's World-Herald has the following to say:

Albert Ewing, the 12-year-old son of Policeman Ewing of 3113 Franklin street, the poisoning of whose family was reported exclusively in the World-Herald Wednesday evening, died Wednesday afternoon from what is believed by the physicians to be arsenic poison. The body was removed yesterday to the coroner's office. The coroner ordered a post mortem examination, to be held in the afternoon, to determine the cause of death.

The son-in-law, Joe Williams, who is suspected of having placed arsenic in the family coffee, is still at large. A warrant has been issued for his arrest on the charge of larceny, and the police have been looking for him for several days on this charge. It is probable that he will be arrested today. The result of the inquest in the Ewing child's case will determine whether or not he will be arraigned on another and more serious charge, that of murder. Williams has been in police court a number of times for petit larceny and is regarded as a tough citizen.

Dr. O. S. Woods' the physician who attended the Ewing family pronounces the symptoms surrounding the death of Albert Ewing as undoubtedly that of poison. The surviving members of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Ewing, are still in a critical condition, but the outlook is favorable for their recovery. Mr. Ewing is much worse than his wife, he having drunk more of the drugged coffee.

The coffee pot was drained of its contents yesterday and placed in a bottle to be analyzed, in order to ascertain whether the presence of poison exists.

The case is attracting considerable attention in view of the remarkable symptoms attending the sufferers.

There is little reason to doubt that Williams not only poisoned the whole family, but that it was premeditated. On the eve of the day before the Ewings were taken sick, when he was at the house, he displayed a package of rough on rats to two of the girls in the house, Ida and Edna Ewing, the sisters of his wife. At the same time he threatened to "fix" the family, but promised the two girls that they should not be harmed. He represented to them that he would marry Edna and that he would take her and Ida to some other place and get employment for the younger girl. Nothing of this was said by the girls until yesterday morning, when they told of it. Edna disclaimed any intention of ever marrying Williams. She said the reason she did not warn the family was that Williams had so frequently made threats before that she paid no attention to them. Neither of these girls were taken sick and all the people in the house say that they provided themselves with salt pepper which was not poisoned, a supply of these having been discovered where it had been set aside. All the rest of the salt and pepper as well as the coffee was poisoned. The girls say that Williams set this aside himself and that they knew nothing of it. Williams is reported as having been seen on Twenty-fourth and Cuming streets Wednesday. He has relatives in St. Louis, but is believed to be in Omaha yet. According to his statements to the Ewings, he was last employed at the Jennings hotel.

Yesterday afternoon the post mortem was held on the body of Albert Ewing by Drs. Wood and Alexander. The examination resulted in finding the stomach and intestines in an inflamed condition, the indications showing conclusively the presence of some sort of poison. The other organs were in a normal condition.

Free for all Fight.

About four o'clock yesterday afternoon a free-for-all fight occurred in Speck's saloon, W. T. Cunningham, who has been here for several days managed to keep a good jag on board in company with Constable Kroehler went to the above named saloon. There Cunningham picked a quarrel with an inoffensive looking boy named Eli Birdsall claiming that he stole an over coat.

This young man denied and Constable Kroehler attempted to arrest him without informing him that he was an officer. The result was the young man resisted and Kroehler called upon Cunningham to help, and together they came near using the boy up.

Officer Fitzpatrick happened along and the young fellow went along peaceably with him, although Cunningham followed him to the jail and attempted to strike him several times.

At the jail Birdsall and his brother came in contact with Cunningham and the latter came out second best.

Today Judge Archer discharged Birdsall with a reprimand, the evidence clearly showing Cunningham to be the aggressor.

Jag and all in Jail.

There has been trouble in the family of W. A. Bartness, a baker of Nebraska City, which nearly culminated in a tragedy, last night. Bartness got on a jag and his wife took the children and left the house. Bartness followed and found her at a neighbor. He attempted to enter the house, but was driven away by Mrs. Charles Downing with a pitchfork. When Bartness reached the street he drew a revolver and fired at Mrs. Downing, fortunately without effect. The police was called and Bartness is now in jail.

Frank Pennington Dead.

Frank W. Pennington, who was formerly in the employ of E. G. Dovey & Son, died at his home in Beatrice Thursday. Mr. Pennington leaves a young wife. The sad news will be a surprise to the many friends in this city.

For Abstracts of Title go to J. M. Leyda, Union block.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

How It Will Be Observed Throughout the Country.

THE RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Good People Will Pray That the Columbian Exposition May Be Sanctified—The Beginning of a New Year.

Week of Prayer.

The coming week will be universally observed by the churches in the United States as the week of prayer. The Presbyterian and Methodist church will join together and hold services during the week and if the outlook is sufficiently bright the meetings will be continued after next week.

The general secretary of the Evangelical alliance for the United States, has issued the following circular in regard to the observance of the week of prayer—January 1-8, 1892.

The churches of our Lord Jesus Christ are again invited to unite in prayer at the beginning of a new year.

After this custom the Evangelical alliances of Christendom send out the following topics suggested for united supplication. The general subjects for each day are the same throughout the world, while the subordinate topics are adopted to the peculiar conditions of each country. It is hoped that all churches which unite in the observance of the week of prayer, remembering its object, and the special promises given to united prayer, will offer petitions in common with the people of God everywhere for the common interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

A large number of sub-topics are given only by way of suggestion. It is expected that each leader will make selections.

Sunday January 1st—Sermons. The Exalted Saviour's "Gifts for Men." Ps. lxxviii: 18, 19; John xvi: 23, 25; Acts v: 31; Eph. iv: 7, 8.

Monday January 2nd—Humiliation and Thanksgiving. Confession: Of selfishness and worldliness; of unfaithfulness to truth and opportunity. Ps. xxxii; Dan. ix: 5; Matt. xvi: 26. Prayer: For grace to put away whatever hinders individual, family or national blessings. Neh. ix: 13; Job xi: 14; Acts xxvii: 20. Praise Thanksgiving: For God's relation of himself; for an increasing apprehension of Christ's relations to all human affairs. Jer. xxxi 9; Ezek. xi: 19, 20.

Tuesday, January 3d—The Church Universal, Prayer: For the manifestation of the spirit in power for a more humble and diligent study of the world; for the increase of love and the spirit of unity; for a larger apprehension of the mission of the church; for a more faithful witness against error; for a more eager looking for Christ's glorious appearing. Acts i: 8; Acts iv: 18, 19; John v: 39; Tit. ii: 13.

Wednesday, January 4—Nations and their rulers. Prayer. That all in authority may recognize their responsibility of God; that laws may be enforced; that class and race antipathies and persecutions may cease; that the liquor and opium and slave traffic may be abolished; that drunkenness, and gambling may cease; that the relations of capital, and labor may be brought under the law of Christ; that the "making haste to be rich" and the love of luxury may be arrested; that all needed reforms may be advanced; that the Columbian exposition may be sanctified to the promotion of the kingdom of Christ. I Tim. ii: 1-4; Gal. iii: 28; Rom. xiii: 1-7; Mal. iii: 13-18.

Thursday, January 5th—Foreign missions. Praise: For missionary process; for the "volunteers" in institutions of learning. Ps. lxxvii; Matt. xxviii; 19, 20; Rom. i: 14-17. Prayer: For missionary societies; for increased missionary spirit, co-operation and contributions; for missionaries and their helpers; for native churches and their pastors; for secret believers; for the conversion of Jews, Mohammedans and heathen; for increased recognition of the oneness of the race. Ps. xxii: 27, 28; Mal. i: 11; Eph. iii: 6.

Friday, January 6th—Home missions. Praise: For increasing appreciation of need and obligation. Acts ii: 41-47. Prayer: For pastors, missionaries and other laborers; for the heathen at our doors; for defected rural districts and neglected city populations, that a divine urgency may impel to effort thereof; for increased Christian comity. Acts iv: 13-31; I Cor. x: 17; Eph. i: 10; iv: 13.

Saturday, January 7th—Families and schools. Prayer: For increased sanctity of the married relation; for systematic religious instruction in the home, and for a more general observance of family worship; for

parents, children and servants, that in their mutual relations they may obey the teaching of Christ; for the preservation and increased efficiency of our public schools; for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon teachers and learners in all schools, colleges, seminaries and universities, and upon Sunday schools, and religious societies of young men and young women. Deut. vi: 4-7; Mark x: 13-22; Prov. vi: 13-27; Deut. x: 19, 21.

Sunday, January 8th—Sermons. The promise outpouring. Joel ii: 18-32. The Plan Command, "Ask ye of the Lord." Zech. x: 1, 2.

On Printers' Proofs.

Now proof sheets, as none but their slaves and victims know, easily take high rank in that class of inanimate things which is possessed of the evil. The essentially modern imagination might call them the electric eels of the literary profession. Without regard to life or limb they roll crashing into that margin of existence which is reserved for other human exactions. They lie in wait for one's hour of maddening pro-engagement. They lurk, watching for one's direct emergency. They select the confusing occasions of public amusement, and are well known to prefer a houseful of company. They delight to hit the eve of a journey, greet the exhausted traveller at the door of his hotel. In the house of his friend he becometh a hermit and stiteth solitary, correcting his galleys in the face of the offended host, who is a recent acquaintance and impressed with the bad manners of the literary class.

The proof sheet delights to detain one from the reception given in honor of the author. It pursues one to the lecture platform and to the foot of the pulpit stairs. It loveth Christmas eve and house cleaning. It aims even at the wedding day. It haunts the sick room. It shows a ghoulish interest in the crises of bereavement. I have repeatedly known it to pursue funerals and to call mourners from the coffin or meet him as he returns from the grave. On such timely and welcome occasions the printer's brief command, "Return immediately," stares in the face of the unfortunate who has vainly hoped for the freedom of an hour of sorrow or of joy.—From "The Rejected Manuscript," a story by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, in Harper's Magazine for January.

Miss Dora Swearigen returned to her home in Weeping Water after a short visit with her brother and family.

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