Roller Skating is Popular.

At the recent cycle show in Paris, as well as at Stanley show, in London, a new kind of roller skates for street and road use were exhibited, which is getting very popular in both countries. They have the shape of ordinary skates, but in the place of steel runners there are two runners provided, which are covered with rubber tires. For practical use on ordinary roads they are excellent, and their weight is about three pounds apiece. A good roller skater can move surprisingly fast upon these skates, and, by placing one foot across the rear of the other he can stop almost instantaneously. The London and Paris streets are already alive with skaters using the new roller skates, which are becoming more popular every day.

Sir Edward Thornton was British ambassador to Russia at the time of the coronation of Alexander III., having formally represented his government at Washington for years. His daughter, Miss Mary Grace Thornton, contributes to The Century for May her journal describing "The Crowning of a Czar." The illustrations of the article are from the official record which was issued by the Russian government. Miss Thornton says that the most imposing moment of the entire coronation was when the Czar alone stood in the vast cathedral at Moscow, and all the rest within the edifice and all without as far as the eye could see, knelt and offered up prayers for him. The ceremonies attending the coronation of Nicholas II. next month will be almost identical with those described.

Novelties in Silver.

Spoons showing openwork silver bowls are preferred to dishes for serving bon bons. They have ample capacity and are made with long, heavy handles, elaborately carved.

Bread forks make the last addition to the table equipment. They are of antique shape with pierced tines and heavy chased handles.

Wreaths of tiny silver flowers from the handles of embroidery scissors especially designed for gifts. The sheaths showing similar decoration, contribute to the effect as well as to the safety.

Openwork shades over silk linings are seen in conjunction with candlesticks of heavy carved silver.

Side Combs and False Hair.

I have just made a discovery which is calculated to fill with joy the heart of every woman who wishes to enjoy the advantages—and undoubtedly they are many—of hair which is softly waved at the sides without the attendant trouble of inducing nature to have its straightness transformed into the desired undulations. This good thing takes the form of a tortoisshell comb to which is attached a strand of softly waved hair, long enough to be drawn round the side of the head, and to give all the loose fullness which is so much to be desired.

Nothing speaks with a louder voice than a godly life.

Some people spend enough time crying over spilt milk to buy a whole cow.

The reason it is called a stag party is because the men in it generally stagger home.

If you would be a happy man, learn to be a contented one.

The wound made by a knife may heal, but that made by an unkind word may not.

No woman should lean back when she laughs.

An evil intention perverts the best actions and makes them sins.

The Oldest British Trees.

The oldest tree in this country is the yew tree at Bradburn, in Kent, which is said to be 3,000 years old; while at Fortingal, in Perthshire, is one nearly as old. At Ankerwyke House, near Staines, is a yew tree, which was famous at the date of the signing of Magna Charta, 1215, and later was the trysting place of Henry VIII and Annie Boleyn. The three yews at Fountains Abbey are at least 1,200 years old, and beneath them the founders of the abbey sat in 1132. There are no famous oaks that rival any yew in age, 2,000 years being the greatest age attained. Damorey's oak, in Devonshire, which was blown down in 1703, had this distinction. Cowthrope Oak, near Wetherby, Yorkshire, is said to be 1,600 years old.—London Star.

A New Use for X Rays.

It will not be very long until the X rays will be in common use by physicians and surgeons in locating fractures, dislocations, etc. Where there is much swelling it is almost impossible to tell the extent of the fracture and especially if it be a slight one.

Practical Test.

Mr. Hobbs—Dear, this paper says sewing is to a woman what whistling is to a man.

"Is that so? Well, here, take little Dick's trousers and whistle a couple of patches on them while I go to the matinee."—Chicago Record.

An Appreciative Spirit.

A senator's wife, who is an accomplished musician, gave a dinner party recently. Among the guests was a certain member of the Kentucky delegation in congress. When awaiting announcement of dinner, at the urgent request of some of the guests, the hostess played and sang. She had just finished a polonaise by Chopin, which was greeted by a burst of applause, and as she arose from the piano, in the silence which followed the sweet strains, her husband turned to the gentleman from the Bluegrass state with:

"Would you like a sonata before dinner, colonel?"

"Well, I don't mind," promptly replied the Kentucky statesman, bracing up quickly. "I had two on my way here, but I reckon I can stand another."—New York Tribune.

A Good Reason.

I don't see why you sent me to bed for being just imprudent," sobbed Wilbur.

"It is very easily explained," said his father. "You are imprudent because you got out of bed on the wrong side this morning. I want you to go to bed for an hour, and then see if you can't get out on the right side."—Harper's Round Table.

Three striking contribution to the May Atlantic are the opening number of a series of letters from Dante Gabriel Rossetti to William Allingham, ably edited by George Birkbeck Hill, with a delightful autobiographical shetch of Allingham; Kendric Charles Babcock's discussion of The Scandinavian Contingent, being the third paper in the series on race characteristics in American life; and an anonymous paper on Mr. Olney's fitness for the Presidency.

SILVER MUST COME.

SOVEREIGN'S LETTER TO THE SILVER PARTY.

All Classes Must Have an Equal Chance to Loan Wealth, Otherwise the Republic Is Being Undermined—Finance Issue Cannot Be Dodged.

The letter of Mr. Sovereign, grand master of the Knights of Labor, in response to an invitation to attend the Washington Silver Conference, should be read by every person in the United States, sufficiently advanced in years to understand its import.

The picture which he presents of the growing power of wealth, and its danger to the common people is as vivid as it is true. No one who stops to think even for a moment, can fail to note the tremendous strides in wealth and power recently made by the money owning and money controlling classes, nor the unscrupulous manner in which their power is employed.

The National Bimetallist does not advocate communism or anything approaching it. No obstacle should be placed in the way of a just and honorable acquisition of wealth. Deprive men of that incentive, and it would operate as a brake upon the wheels of progress at once.

But it does champion, as best it can, such a policy as will give all classes an equal chance; which will tend to a just distribution of wealth, and not build up a community consisting of a few millionaires on the one hand, and untold millions of suffering poor on the other. That such is the inevitable effect of an appreciating standard of value is so plain as to scarcely need discussion.

When money appreciates (gets dearer) it is plain as light itself that the man who has a great deal of it, or who owns evidences of debt, notes, bonds, mortgages, and the like, reaps a benefit that does not belong to him. The "money" which he has, or collects from time to time, will command more of those things necessary for his support and comfort. These things are produced by the labor of others, and consequently they are injured.

Let the producer exert himself to the utmost, and there is a limit to his productive power. Beyond a certain point he cannot possibly go. But there is no limit to the appreciation of money. Within the last twenty-two years it has doubled in value. Under present conditions money can double again in the next twenty-two years as easily as it did in the last.

What does that mean? It means wheat, corn, cotton—almost everything at half their present price. It means a doubling of the burden of debt, and a doubling of the wealth of the creditor. It means that the idle non-producer, living upon a fixed salary, or other income, can buy twice as much for it. It means that the man engaged in production must surrender twice as much of his product in order to get the same amount of money.

It is seriously claimed that this hurts nobody, because the producer gets money of double purchasing power. This is a most egregious error.

When one man doubles his wealth by adding to those things which make up the aggregate of the world's riches, it may be truthfully said that he injuries nobody. But when he does so by an increased purchasing power of his "dollar," he must necessarily do it at somebody else's loss.

Suppose the purchasing power of every dollar in the world were instantly doubled. No sane man would claim that the wealth of the world would be doubled. It would contain just what it does now, and nothing more. It would support just as many human beings as now, and no more. But it would make a vast difference in the distribution of that wealth. The man whose wealth was all in money would be twice as rich as before; the man whose property was mortgaged for half its value, would be ruined.

There being only a given amount of commodities in the world, if the monied classes could command twice as many, it follows with unerring certainty that other classes must be able to command less.

The effect would be the same as doubling the size of the measure by which the rich man buys his goods. In fact, it is the same thing, for a measure of value is also a measure of "quantity." If beef is 10 cents a pound, it is immaterial whether we ask for a pound or 10 cents' worth. In each case we mean the same thing. Whether we double the pound weight or double the 10 cents in a given transaction the effect is the same.

If all men stood upon an exactly equal footing, buying and selling equally of all things, and for cash, then an appreciation of money would do comparatively little harm. Perhaps none. But this is a condition that does not exist. Men do not buy and sell equally. They are divided into classes. Some one owns one kind of property, and some another. Some are producers, and some are non-producers. Some are debtors and some are creditors. Some have a large accumulation of money, and some have none. Therefore, it is clear that an appreciation of money gives the monied classes an unjust advantage, and if carried too far, it means the enslavement of the toilers, producers and debtors.

Mr. Sovereign sees this distinctly, and fully appreciates the fact that while there are many reforms to be made, the most important of all is the overthrow of the unjust and extortionate money standard forced upon the people at an unguarded moment in 1873.

He also appreciates the necessity of acting now, for every year that we wait entrenches the money power the more strongly, and weakens the people, not only in their substance, but in their physical and moral courage as well.

Let the American people ponder over the words of Mr. Sovereign, and then heed the appeal of Chairman Mott: To your tents, Oh Israel!—National Bimetallist.

Mum's the Word.

Tom Reed, McKinley, Allison,
Quay, Morton, Cullom, Platte,
Depew, and even Harrison,
Don't know where "they are at."
They're great on reciprocity,
On tariff they are some,
But when it comes to currency
They everyone are mum.

You ask them how they stand on bonds,
They never say a word.
On greenbacks their opinions
Have not as yet been heard.
They'll give you quick to understand
They are for fee-faw-fum;
But broach to them free silver and
They everyone are mum.

These statesmen are their party's pride,
Renowned for eloquence.
They even look quite dignified
Astraddle of the fence.
When going for a democrat,
They make the welkin hum;
But gold? Each fellow dodges that,
They everyone are mum.

Each one of them has tender dreams,
Hopes bursting into bloom,
The White House through his vision gleams;
They all have got a boom.
They're shy of ground they do not know;
'Tis fear that strikes them dumb.
Ambition makes them cowards, so
They everyone are mum.

"Silence is golden"—'tis a saw
We often have been told.
"Silence is golden"—maybe now
This silence is of gold.
When once they've surely gained the day
And knocked the longed-for plum,
They may have something more to say,
Though now they are so mum.

Tom Reed, McKinley, Allison,
Quay, Cullom, Morton, Platte,
Depew, and even Harrison,
Don't know where "they are at."
On old and time-worn platitudes
They talk like kingdom come;
When a live issue once intrudes,
They everyone are mum.

—J. A. EDGERTON.

Marshall Field and the Money Question.

Editor National Bimetallist: Your criticism of Marshall Field, in your issue of Feb. 5, is no doubt entirely correct. Unfortunately the same words will apply with equal force to nineteen-twentieths of the business men of our towns and cities. Mr. Fild's declaration that the remonetization of silver "would double the cost of the poor man's living," while it shows his ignorance on the subject, contains a fallacy that is a stock assertion of the gold standard men. It is claimed that the low prices resulting from demonetization are a benefit to poor men, and that high prices would be an injury to them.

Now, labor forms an element in the cost of all production at ratios verying from 30 to 80 per cent of the value of the product. Probably a mere approximation of the proportion of labor in production would be about 50 per cent. Is it for a moment to be supposed that a depreciation of 50 per cent in the value of all products could occur without almost fatally injuring labor? Or is it to be supposed that an increase in the value of all products, into the cost of which labor so largely enters, could take place without largely benefiting labor? This is the proposition that Marshall Field makes, viz.: that an increase in the value of products; of which labor is a prime element of cost, would "double the poor man's living." When viewed in this general way, the absurdity of it becomes glaringly apparent.

Marshall Field may not know it, but it is a fact all the same, that labor, as a whole, was never before so prostrate and depressed as it is today.

Marshall Field's prosperity as a merchant depends upon the ability of the people to buy his goods. The ability of the people to buy his goods depends upon the reward of their production. The reward of their production depends upon the price of the products. The price of products depends upon the volume of money compared with produced wealth. I wish Marshall Field, and men of his class, would think this matter out. Yours truly, J. BURROWS.

The Pictures.

Farmers' Tribune. I brought a load of wheat to town a few years ago; sold it for $40.50. With this money I paid my taxes, $22; got a new dress for my wife, $5; shoes for the children, $6; a barrel of flour, $6.50; fifty pounds of sugar, $4; ten pounds of coffee, $2; and went home happy with $3.75 in my pocket to give to the preacher.

I brought in a load of wheat today, sold it for $22.50; paid my taxes, $22.25; and have a quarter left. They tell me I can get flour and dresses and sugar and shoes, for half what I paid then, but it 'pears to me I haint got the half. I've about made up my mind to invest this quarter in United States bonds and howl for the gold standard.

Japs Travel Slowly.

The Japanese are a go-ahead people in almost everything but railway speed. Of all the twenty-three lines in Japan, state and private, the Tokio-Yokohama has the honor of the best time—an average speed of nineteen miles seventy-six chains per hour. Next ranks the Ofuna-Yokosuka road, with an average speed of nineteen miles eighteen chains.

Electric light invented by Lodyguin and Kossloff, at London, 1874.

His View About Dress.

The late Prebendary Roger's humor was very unconventional. At a dinner where he happened to be sitting next to the bishop of London, responding to the toast of his health, Mr. Rogers said that some of his friends still regretted that he had not attained higher preferment in the church. They wanted him to be made a bishop. "But," he added, "I feel that I have got quite enough happiness out of my life without having this flummery about my legs." And he lifted up Dr. Temple's apron.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Good husbands are seldom troubled with bad mothers-in-laws.

It would spoil nine men out of ten to let them have their own way for a month.