

MR. BLAINE'S SPEECH,

FULL TEXT OF THAT MUCH QUOTED AND DISCUSSED DOCUMENT.

HE WAS FOR SOUND MONEY

Was Delivered in the United States Senate February 7, 1878, and Was Against the Free Coinage of Silver at 16 to 1—The American Policy Powerfully and Clearly Stated.

The following is the much quoted speech in full delivered by James G. Blaine in the United States Senate February 7, 1878, in opposition to a House bill for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1. The commercial value of silver at that time was 92 cents per ounce:

Mr. President: The discussion on the question of remonetizing silver has been prolonged and exhaustive. I may not expect to add much to its value, but I promise not to add much to its length. I shall endeavor to consider facts rather than theories, to state conclusions rather than arguments.

I believe gold and silver coin to be the money of the constitution—indeed, the money of the American people anterior to the constitution, money which the organic law of the republic recognized as independent of its own existence. No power was conferred on Congress to declare that either metal should not be money. Congress has, therefore, in my judgment, no more power to demonetize silver than to demonetize gold; no more power to demonetize either than to demonetize both. In this statement I am but repeating the weighty dictum of the first of constitutional lawyers. "I am certainly of the opinion," said Mr. Webster, "that gold and silver, at rates fixed by Congress, constitute the legal standard of value in this country, and that neither Congress nor any state has authority to establish any other standard or to displace this standard." Few persons can be found, I apprehend, who will maintain that Congress has the power to demonetize both gold and silver, or that Congress could be justified in prohibiting the coinage of both; and yet in logic and legal construction it would be difficult to show where and why the power of Congress over silver is greater than over gold—greater over either than over both. If, therefore, silver has been demonetized, I am in favor of remonetizing it. If its coinage has been prohibited I am in favor of ordering it to be resumed. If it has been restricted, I am in favor of ordering it to be enlarged.

What power, then, has Congress over gold and silver? It has the exclusive power to coin them, the exclusive power to regulate their value—very great, very wise, very necessary power, for the discreet exercise of which a critical occasion has now arisen. However men may differ about causes and processes, all will admit that within a few years a great disturbance has taken place in the relative value of gold and silver, and that silver is worth less or gold is worth more in the money markets of the world in 1878 than in 1873, when the further coinage of silver dollars was prohibited in this country. To remonetize it now as though essential conditions had not changed, is to willfully and blindly to deceive ourselves. If our demonetization were the only cause for the decline in the value of silver, then remonetization would be proper and effectual cure. But other causes, beyond our control, have been far more potentially operative than the simple fact that Congress prohibited its further coinage. Legislators we are bound to take cognizance of these causes. The demonetization of silver in the German empire and the consequent partial, on well nigh complete, suspension of coinage in the Latin union, have been the leading cause for the rapid decline in the value of silver. I do not think the over supply of silver has had in comparison with those other causes, an appreciable influence in the decline of its value, because its over supply with respect to gold in these latter years, has not been so great as was the over supply of gold with respect to silver for many years after the mines of California and Australia were opened; and the over supply of gold from these rich sources did not affect the relative positions and uses of the two metals in any European country.

Free Coinage Alone Impossible.

I believe, then, if Germany were to remonetize silver and the kingdoms and states of the Latin union were to reopen its mints, silver would at once resume its former relation with gold. The European countries, when driven to full remonetization, as I believe they will be in the end, must of necessity adopt their old ratio of 15 1/2 of silver to 1 of gold, and we shall then be compelled to adopt the same instead of our former ratio of 16 to 1. If we fail to do this, as we have, we lose our silver, which, like all things else, seeks the highest market; and if fifteen and a half ounces of silver in Europe will buy as much gold as the silver of course, will go to Europe. But our line of policy in a joint movement with other nations to remonetize is simple and direct. The difficult problem is what we shall do when we aim to re-establish silver without the co-operation of European powers, and really as an advance movement to coerce these powers into the same policy. Evidently the first dictate of prudence is to coin such a dollar as will not only do justice among our citizens at home, but will prove a protection—an absolute barrier—against the gold-monetization of Europe, who, whenever the opportunity offers, will quickly draw from us the \$100,000,000 of gold coin which we now hold. If we coin a silver dollar of full legal tender, obviously below the current value of the gold dollar, we are simply opening our

doors and inviting Europe to take our gold. With our gold flowing out from us we shall be forced to the single standard and our relations with the leading commercial countries of the world will not only be embarrassed, but crippled.

The question before Congress then—sharply defined in the pending House bill—is, whether it is now safe and expedient to offer free coinage to the silver dollar of 4 2/3 grains, with the mints of the Latin union closed and Germany not permitting silver to be coined as money. At current rates of silver, the free coinage of a dollar containing 412 1/2 grains, worth in gold about 92 cents, gives an illegitimate profit to the owner of the bullion, enabling him to take 92 cents worth of it to the mint and get it stamped as coin and force his neighbor to take it for a full dollar. This is an unfair advantage which the government has no right to give to the owner of silver bullion, and which defrauds the man who is forced to take the dollar. It assuredly follows that if we give free coinage to the dollar of inferior value, and put it in circulation, we do so at the expense of our better coinage in gold; and unless we expect the invariable experience of other nations to be in some mysterious way suspended for our peculiar benefit, we inevitably lose our gold coin. It will flow out from us with the certainty and with the force of the tides. Gold has indeed remained with us in considerable amount during the circulation of the inferior currency of the legal tender, but that was because there were two great uses reserved by law for gold—the collection of customs and the payment of interest on the public debt. But if the inferior silver coin is also to be used for these two reserved purposes, then gold has no tie to bind it to us. What gain, therefore, should we make for the circulating medium, if on opening the gate for silver to flow in, we open a still wider gate for gold to flow out? If I were to venture upon a dictum on the silver question, I should declare that until Europe remonetizes silver we cannot afford to coin a dollar as low as 412 1/2 grains. After Europe remonetizes on the old standard, we cannot afford to coin a dollar above 40 grains. If we coin too high a dollar before general remonetization, our silver will leave us. It is only an equated value before and after general remonetization that will preserve both gold and silver to us.

Gold and Silver Must Be Kept Equal.

Consider further what injustice would be done to every holder of a legal tender or national bank note. The large volume of paper money—in excess of \$100,000,000—is now worth between ninety-eight and ninety-nine cents on the dollar in gold coin. The holders of it, who are indeed our entire population, from the poorest to the richest, have been promised from the hour of its issue that their paper money would one day be as good as gold. To pay silver for the greenback is a full compliance with the promise and this obligation, providing the silver is made as it always has been heretofore, as good as gold. To make our silver coin even three per cent less valuable than gold inflicts at once a loss of more than \$20,000,000 on the holders of our paper money. To make a silver dollar worth but ninety-two cents precipitates on the same class a loss of nearly \$1,000,000. For whatever the value of the silver dollar is, the whole paper issue of the country will sink to its standard when its coinage is authorized and its circulation becomes general in the channels of trade. Some one in conversation with Commodore Vanderbilt, during one of the many freight competitions of the trunk lines, said: "It cannot be that the Canadian railroad has sufficient carrying capacity to compete with your great line?" "That is true," replied the Commodore, "but they can fix a rate and force us down to it." Were Congress to pass a law today declaring that every legal tender note and every national bank note shall hereafter pass for only ninety-six or ninety-seven cents on the dollar, there is not a constituency in the United States that would re-elect a man who supported it. And in many districts the representative would be lucky if he escaped merely with defeat at the polls.

It is almost mathematically demonstrable that the same effect will follow from the coinage of an inferior silver dollar. Assurances from empirics and scientists in finance that remonetization of the former dollar will at once and permanently advance its value to par with gold, are worth little in the face of opposing and controlling facts. The first effect of issuing any silver dollar that will pay custom dues and interest on the public debt will undoubtedly be to raise it to a practical equality with gold, but that condition will last only until the amount needful for customs shall fill the channels of its use; and the overflow going into general circulation will rapidly settle to its normal and actual value, and then the discount will come on the volume of the paper currency, which will sink pari passu with the silver dollar in which it is made redeemable. That remonetization will have a considerable effect in advancing the value of the silver dollar is very probable, but not enough to overcome the difference now existing—a difference resulting from causes independent of our control in the United States.

General Remonetization.

The responsibility of re-establishing silver in its ancient and honorable place as money in Europe and America devolves really upon the Congress of the United States. If we act here with wisdom and firmness, we shall not only successfully remonetize silver, and bring it into general use as money in our own country, but the influence of our example will be potential among European nations, with the possible exception of England. Indeed, our national indebtedness to Europe is so great that, if we have the right to pay it in silver, we necessarily coerce those nations by the strongest of all forces, self interest, and us in upholding the value of silver as money. But if we attempt the remonetization on a basis which is obviously below the fair standard of value as it now exists, we incur all the evil consequences of failure at home and the certainty of successful

opposition abroad. We are, and shall be, the greatest producers of silver in the world, and we have a larger stake in its complete remonetization than any other country. The difference to the United States, between the general remonetization and the general destruction of silver as money in the commercial world, will possibly within the next half century equal the entire bonded debt of the nation. But, to gain this advantage, we must make it actual money, the accepted equal of gold in the markets of the world. Remonetization here, followed by general remonetization in Europe, will secure to the United States the most stable basis for its currency that we have enjoyed, and will effectually aid in solving all the problems by which our financial situation is surrounded.

Bimetallic and Mono-Metallic Standards.

On the much vexed and long-mooted question of bimetallic and monometallic standard, my own views are sufficiently indicated in the remarks I have made. I believe the struggle now going on in this country and in other countries, for a single gold standard, would, if successful, produce disaster in the end throughout the commercial world. The destruction of silver as money, and the establishment of gold as the sole unit of value, must have a ruinous effect on all forms of property except those investments which yield a fixed return in money. These would be enormously enhanced in value, and would gain a disproportionate, and therefore unfair, advantage over every other species of property. If, as the most reliable statistics affirm, there are nearly seven billions of coin or bullion in the world, not very unequally divided between gold and silver, it is impossible to strike silver out of existence as money without results which will prove distressing to millions and utterly disastrous to tens of thousands. Alexander Hamilton, in his able and invaluable report in 1791 on the establishment of a mint, declared that "to annul the use of either gold or silver as money, is to abridge the quantity of the circulating medium, and is liable to all the objections which arise from a comparison of the benefits of a scanty circulation." I take no risks in saying that the benefits of a full circulation, and the evils of a scanty circulation, are both immeasurably greater to-day than they were when Mr. Hamilton uttered these weighty words, always provided that the circulation is one of actual money and not of depreciated "promises to pay."

What Hamilton Said.

In the report from which I have already quoted, Mr. Hamilton argues at length in favor of a double standard, and all the subsequent experience of ninety years has brought out no clearer statement of the case, or developed a more complete comprehension of this subtle and difficult subject. "On the whole," says Mr. Hamilton, "it seems most advisable not to attach the unit exclusively to either of the metals, because this cannot be done effectually without destroying the office and character of one of them as money, and reducing it to the situation of mere merchandise." Mr. Hamilton wisely concludes that this reduction of either of the metals to mere merchandise (for that is his exact words), "would probably be a greater evil than occasional variations in the unit from the fluctuations in the relative value of the metals, especially if care be taken to regulate the proportion between them, with an eye to their average commercial value." I do not think that this country, holding so vast a proportion of the world's supply of silver in its mountains and mines, can afford to reduce the metal to the situation of mere merchandise. If silver is used as money in Europe and America, the mines of the Pacific slope will be closed and dead. Mining enterprises of the gigantic scale existing in this country cannot be carried on to provide backs for mirrors, and to manufacture cream pitchers and sugar bowls. A source of incalculable wealth to this entire country is destroyed the moment silver is permanently disused as money. It is therefore to check that tendency and bring the coinage of Europe back to the full recognition of the value of the metal as a medium of exchange.

Evil of Inferior Dollars.

The question of beginning anew the coinage of silver dollars has aroused much discussion as to its effect on the public credit. The senator from Ohio (Mr. Matthews) placed this phase of the debate in the very forefront of the debate—mistakenly, prematurely and illogically. I think on a sort of judicial construction in advance, by a concurrent resolution, of a certain law in case that law should happen to be passed by Congress. My own view on this question can be stated very briefly. I believe the public creditor can afford to be paid in any silver dollar that the United States will accept as coin and circulate. We have \$100,000,000 of property in this country, and a wise self-interest will not permit us to overturn its relations by seeking for an inferior dollar wherewith to settle the honest demands of any creditor. The question might be different from a merely selfish point of view, if, on paying the dollar to the public creditor, it would disappear after performing its function. But the trouble is that the inferior dollar we pay the public creditor remains in circulation, to the exclusion of the better dollar. That which you pay at home will stay here; that which you send abroad will come back. The interest of the public creditor is indissolubly bound up with the interest of the whole people. Whatever effects him affects us all, and the evil that we might inflict upon him by paying an inferior dollar would reach upon us with a vengeance as manifold as the aggregate wealth of the Republic transcends the comparatively small limits of our bonded debt. Remember that our aggregate wealth is always increasing and our bonded debt steadily growing less. If paid in a good silver dollar the bondholder has nothing to complain of. If paid in an inferior dollar, he has the same grievance that will be uttered still more plaintively by the holder of the legal tender note, by the possessor of the national bank bill, by the laborer, by the day laborer, and by the countless host of poor, whom we have

with us always, and on whom the most distressing effect of inferior money will be ultimately precipitated.

Germany Destroyed Silver.

But I must say, Mr. President, that the specific demand for the payment of our bonds in gold coin, and in nothing else, comes with an ill grace from certain quarters. European criticism is leveled against us, and hard names are hurled at us across the ocean, for simply daring to state that the letter of our laws declares the bonds to be payable in standard coin of July 14, 1870; explicitly declared so, and declared so in the interest of the public creditor, and the declaration inserted in the very body of the \$500,000,000 of bonds that have been issued since that date. Beyond all doubt, the silver dollar was included in the standard coins of that public act. Payment at that time would have been acceptable and as undisputed in silver as in gold dollars, for both were equally valuable in the European as in the American market. Seven-eighths of all our bonds owned out of the country are held in Germany and Holland. Germany has been forced thereby to suspend its coinage, since the subjects of both powers purchased securities. The German empire, the very year after we made our specific declaration for paying our bonds in coin, passed a law destroying the far as lay in its power, the value of silver as money. I do not say that it was specially aimed at this currency, but it was passed regardless of its effects upon us, and was followed according to public and undenied statement by a large investment in our bonds, with a view, it was understood, of holding them as a coin reserve for drawing gold from us to aid in establishing their new gold standard at home. Thus, by one move the German government destroyed, as far as lay in its power, the then existing value of silver as money, enhanced consequently the value of gold, and then got into position to draw gold from us at the moment of their need, which would also be the moment of our own sorest distress. I do not say that the German government, in these successive steps, did a single thing which it did not have a perfect right to do, but I do say that the subjects of that empire have no reason to complain of our government for the initial step which has impaired the value of one of our standard coins. The German government, by joining with us in the remonetization of silver, can place that standard coin in its old position, and make it as easy for this government to pay and as profitable for their subjects to receive the one metal as the other.

The Public Credit.

When we pledged the public creditor in 1870 that our obligations should be paid in the standard coin of that date, silver bullion was worth in the London market a fraction over sixty pence per ounce; its average for the past eight months has been about fifty-four pence; the price reckoned in gold in both cases, but the large difference is due in part to the rise of gold as well as to the fall of silver. Allowing for both causes and dividing the difference, it will be found in the judgment of many of the wisest men in the country, perfectly safe to issue a dollar of 425 grains standard silver; as one that, anticipating the full and legitimate influence of remonetization, will equate itself with the gold dollar, and effectually guard against the drain of our gold during the time necessary for international conference in regard to the general re-establishment of silver as money. When that general re-establishment shall be effected with the coinage of fewer grains the dollar which I am now advocating will not cause loss or embarrassment to any one. The mine of the ore, the owner of the bullion, the holder of the coin and the government that issues it, will all in turn be benefited. It will yield profit on re-coinage and will be advantageously employed in our commercial relations with foreign countries. Meanwhile it will insure to our laborers at home a full dollar's pay for a dollar's worth of work.

The American Laborer.

I think we owe this to the American laborer. Ever since we demonetized the old dollar we have been running our mints at full speed, coining a new silver dollar for the use of the Chinese coolie and the Indian pariah—a dollar containing 420 grains of standard silver, with its superiority over our ancient dollar ostentatiously engraved on its reverse side. To those "outside barbarians" we send this superior dollar, bearing all our national emblems, our patriotic devices, our pious inscriptions, our goddess of liberty, our defiant eagle, our federal unity, our trust in God. This dollar contains 7 1/2 grains more silver than the famous "dollar of the fathers," proposed to be re-coined by the pending bill, and more than four times as many of these new dollars have already been coined as ever were coined of all other silver dollars in the United States. In the exceptional and abnormal condition of the silver market now existing throughout the world we have felt compelled to increase the weight of the dollar with which we carry on trade with the heathen nations of Asia, shall we do less for the American laborer at home? Nay, shall we not do a little better and a little more for those of our own blood and our own fireside? If you remonetize the dollar of the fathers your mints will be at once put to work on two different dollars—different weights, different values, different in prestige, different in their reputation and currency throughout the commercial world. It will read strangely in history that these dollars are made for an ignorant class of heathen laborers in China and India, and that the lighter and less valuable is made for the intelligent and educated laboring man who is a citizen of the United States. Charity, the adage says, begins at home. Charity, the independent American laborer scores to ask, but he has the right to demand that justice should begin at home. In his name and in the name of common sense and common honesty, I ask that the American Congress will not force upon the American laborer an inferior dollar

which the naked and famished laborers of India and China refuse to accept.

The bill which I now offer as a substitute for the house bill contains three very simple provisions:

Offers a Substitute.

1. That the dollar shall contain 425 grains of standard silver, shall have unlimited coinage, and be an unlimited legal tender.
2. That all the profits of coinage shall go to the government, and not to the operator in silver bullion.
3. That silver dollars or silver bullion, assayed and mint-stamped, may be deposited, with the assistant treasurer at New York, for which coin certificates may be issued, the same in denomination as United States notes, not below \$10, and that these shall be redeemable on demand in coin or bullion. We shall thus secure a paper circulation based on an actual deposit of precious metal, giving us notes as valuable as those of the Bank of England and doing away at once with the dreaded inconvenience of silver on account of bulk and weight.

I do not fail, Mr. President, to recognize that the committals and avowals of Senators on this question preclude the hope of my substitute being adopted. I do not indeed fail to recognize that on this question I am not in line with either extreme—with those who believe in the single gold standard or with those who by premature and unwise action, as I must regard it, would force us to the single silver standard. Either will be found, in my judgment, a great misfortune to our country. We need both gold and silver, and we can have both only by making each the equal of the other. It would not be difficult to show that in the nations where both have been fully recognized and most widely diffused, the steadiest and most continuous prosperity has been enjoyed—that true form of prosperity which reached all classes, but which begins with the day laborer whose toil lays the foundation of the whole superstructure of wealth. The exclusively gold nation like England may show the most massive fortunes in the ruling classes, but it shows also the most helpless and hopeless poverty in the humbler walks of life. The gold and silver nation like France can exhibit no such individual fortunes as abound in a gold nation like England, but it has a peasantry whose silver savings can pay a war indemnity that would have beggared the gold bankers of London, and to which the peasantry of England could not have contributed a pound sterling in gold or even a shilling in silver.

Against Cheap Money.

The effect of paying the labor of this country in silver coin of full value, as compared with irredeemable paper, or as compared even with silver of inferior value, will make itself felt even in a single generation to the extent of tens of millions, perhaps hundreds of millions, in the aggregate savings which represent consolidated capital. It is the instinct of man from the savage to the scholar—developed in childhood and remaining with age—to value the metals which in all lands are counted "precious." Excessive paper money leads to extravagance, to waste, to want, as we painfully witness to-day. With abounding proof of its demoralizing and destructive effect, we hear it proclaimed in the halls of Congress that "the people demand cheap money." I deny it. I declare such a phrase to be a total misapprehension—a total misinterpretation of the popular wish. The people do not demand cheap money. They demand an abundance of good money, which is an entirely different thing. They do not want a single gold standard that will exclude silver and benefit those already rich. They do not want an inferior silver standard that will drive out gold and not help those already poor. They want both metals, in full value, in equal honor, in whatever abundance the bountiful earth will yield them to the searching eye of science and to the hard hand of labor.

The two metals have existed side by side in harmonious, honorable companionship as money, ever since intelligent trade was known among men. It is well nigh forty centuries since "Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." Since that time nations have risen and fallen, races have disappeared, dialects and languages have been forgotten, arts have been lost, treasures have perished, continents have been discovered, islands have been sunk in the sea, and through all these changes silver and gold have reigned supreme as the representatives of values—as the media of exchange. The dethronement of each has been attempted in turn, and sometimes the dethronement of both, but always in vain. And we are here to-day deliberating anew over the problem which comes down to us from Abraham's time—the right of the metal that shall be "current money with the merchant."

CUBAN HISTORY IN BRIEF.

Spain colonized the island in 1511. In 1534 and again in 1534 Havana was destroyed by the French. Matanzas was the first city to fall into the hands of the insurgents. Cruelty and injustice to the natives has always been the creed of the Spaniards. The present revolution began Feb. 24, 1895, when the republic was proclaimed by Marti. The revolution of 1868 lasted ten years before Spain succeeded in compromising by promising reforms. The constitution of Cuba, modeled on that of the United States, was adopted Sept. 23, 1895. A triangular blue union, having a single star and five stripes, three of red and two of white, is the flag of the Republic. A Yucatec (Mex.) fisherman pulled up a monster sea crab the other day, and on one side of the creature was fastened a pair of smoked eye-glasses. How they came there is now the question.

ALL THINGS WERE FREE TO HER.

An Indian Princess Who Saved Seattle and Earned Its Gratitude.

The Princess of Wales is not cramped for pocket money, and various other royal ladies have all they want to spend, but the Princess Angeline was probably the only princess in the world who never had to pay for anything or even utter the magic words "Charge it," says the New York World.

The Princess Angeline never had to pay for anything; she could buy all her soul desired—a bill was never sent her nor to her brother nor to any other member of her family, and she was only an American Indian princess.

Recently Angeline died, aged at least 100, and it is supposed considerably more. She never told her age, for the reason that she didn't know it. She was the daughter of old Chief Seattle, the gentleman after which the town of that name is called. Once Seattle was owner of all the territory along the shore of Puget sound, now in the United States. In those days the Duwamish tribe was a populous and warlike nation, and it was while the white settlers were still weak and scattered that the Princess Angeline did the work that made her able to trade on her face in the town of Seattle.

When the whites began to encroach on the Indians' hunting grounds the usual friction arose and it was not long before a conspiracy was formed to overwhelm the whites dwelling along the shores of Puget sound at one blow. The Princess Angeline had been kindly treated by the settlers and at the risk of her life set out to the hamlet of Seattle to warn them of their danger.

The white men, thus prepared, armed themselves for an attack and had no difficulty in repelling their savage foes. They realized the danger they had so narrowly escaped, however, and were properly grateful to the Indian woman, which was a bit odd. The citizens of Seattle in a body offered to build her a house and support her in what an Indian would consider luxury for the rest of her life. But she preferred the free life of the wilderness and went back to her people. Nevertheless she accepted the freedom of the city of Seattle, and orders were left at all the shops that she should have whatever she took a fancy to, no matter what the cost might be. The richest men of the town stood ready to defray the bills.

Thus the Princess Angeline gradually became a public character and a living monument to what is said to be extremely rare—the gratitude of a city.

Her face was familiar to every one in the northwest. It was stamped on spoons, used for advertising purposes and on every article in the nature of a souvenir of Seattle and the vicinity. During the last few weeks of her life she suffered greatly, but would submit to no medical treatment. She fought so desperately when an attempt was made to take her to a hospital that it had to be given up. Her life, which with care might have been prolonged, was thus sacrificed by her superstitions.

A Hitch at the Royal Wedding.

What caused the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of Winchester a very bad quarter of an hour's anxiety took place at Buckingham palace on Wednesday immediately before the royal wedding, and the contretemps might have had a very serious result. We have made every inquiry, and we learn that the following is the true story: Both the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of Winchester forwarded their clerical robes early on Wednesday morning to Buckingham palace, directing them to be sent to the robing room which had been set apart for the assembly of the clergy and where they were to dress for the wedding service. The two high dignitaries of the church arrived in good time in order to robe, but not a vestige of their surplices or other canonicals could be found. The archbishop was extremely anxious, and so also were all the palace officials, and the time was drawing nigh for the clergy procession to the chapel, and yet the missing lawn was not to be found. At last Lord Edward Pelham Clinton was informed of the impending catastrophe, and he at once set a complete army of court officials to search every room in use for the missing robes. These were eventually found in another room, but only just in time for the archbishop and bishop of Winchester to dress and hurry to the chapel. The other clergy had brought their vestments with them and so were ready long before the time. The archbishop, it is said, was very much upset by the contretemps. Some servant or another, not knowing the robing room, had placed the portmanteau bearing the robes in the wrong room.—London Chronicle.

The Wheel in the Army.

The bicycle will soon be put to practical test in the army. A detachment of eight men of the Twenty-fifth infantry has been mounted on wheels and in charge of a lieutenant will ride over the Montana trails. A bicycle repair shop has been established at Fort Missoula, where the men are stationed, and the instruction in regard to riding includes lessons in repairing under an expert bicycle mechanic. The wheel will be thoroughly tested in rapid conveyance of messages from Fort Missoula to other forts, with and without relay; practice rides with rifles, blankets and shelter tents; road patrolling and reconnaissance.

A Yate.

Sandford—What did she say when you told her you were a tutor in Yale? Merton—Asked me if I'd test for the coaching party her friends were getting up.—Truth.