

# GRANT AND SILVER.

## HIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FAVORING FREE COINAGE.

We Want All the Silver in Circulation That Can Be Coined—Ordered Additional Facilities for Mintage—Was Ignorant of Demonetization.

There are still some men who insist that the act demonetizing silver was not sneaked through Congress in 1873. Time and again the silver advocates have given substantial evidence to the contrary. The late James G. Blaine, who was speaker of the house of representatives in 1873, has been quoted times without number. Other illustrious statesmen of all parties have testified to the truth of Blaine's statement that "Not a member of congress knew at the time that the act of '73 demonetized silver." Neither did President Grant, who signed the bill. Here is his special message to the senate on the day he signed the resumption bill. No sane man, after reading it, will dare say that President Grant knew that the act of 1873 barred silver from the mints. The message:

To the Senate of the United States:

Senate bill No. 1044, "to provide for the resumption of specie payments," is before me, and this day receives my signature of approval. I venture upon this unusual method of conveying the notice of approval to the house on which the measure originated because of its great importance to the country at large and in order to suggest further legislation, which seems to me essential to make the law effective.

The provisions of the third section of the act will prevent combinations being made to exhaust the treasury of coin. With such a law it is presumable that no gold could be called for not required for legitimate business purposes. When large amounts of coin should be drawn from the treasury, correspondingly large amounts of currency would be withdrawn from circulation, thus causing a sufficient stringency in currency to stop the outward flow of coin.

The advantages of a currency of a fixed, known value would also be reached. In my opinion, by the enactment of such law, business and industries would revive, and the beginning of prosperity on a firm basis would be reached.

Other means of increasing revenue than those suggested should probably be devised, and also other legislation. In fact, to carry out the first section of the act, another mint becomes necessary. With the present facilities for coining, it would take a period probably beyond that fixed by law for final specie resumption to coin the silver necessary to transact the business of the country.

There are now some smelting furnaces for extracting silver and gold from the ores brought from the mountainous territories, in Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha—three in the former city—and as much of the change required will be wanted in the Mississippi valley states, and as the metal to be coined comes from west of these states, and as I understand the charge of transportation of bullion from either of the cities named to the mint in Philadelphia or to New York city, amounts to \$4 for each \$1,000 worth, with an equal expense for transportation back, it would seem a fair argument in favor of adopting one or more of those cities as the place or places for the establishment of new coining facilities.

I have ventured upon this subject with great diffidence, because it is so unusual to approve a measure—as I most heartily do this, even if no further legislation is attainable at this time—and to announce the fact by message. But I do so because I feel that it is a subject of such vital importance to the whole country, that it should receive the attention of and be discussed by congress and the people, through the press and in every way, to the end that the best and most satisfactory course may be reached of executing what I deem most beneficial legislation on a most vital question to the interests and prosperity of the nation.

U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, Jan. 14, 1875.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, the message was referred to the committee on finance and ordered to be printed—(See Congressional Record, volume 3, part 1, Forty-third congress, second session, Dec. 7, 1875, page 459).

The above is not the only substantial evidence that General Grant was ignorant of the whole proceeding. Following is one he wrote two years previous to his Secretary of the Interior. Believing that silver might still be taken to the mints and coined free of charge, he wrote:

"I wonder that silver is not already coming into the market to supply the deficiency in the circulating medium."

"Experience has proved that it takes about \$40,000,000 of fractional currency to make the small change necessary for the transaction of the business of the country. Silver will gradually take the place of this currency and, further, will become the standard of values, which will be hoarded in a small way. I estimate that this will consume from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 in time of this species of our circulating medium. \* \* \* I confess to a desire to see limited hoarding of money. But I want to see a limited hoarding of something that is a standard of value the world over. Silver is this. \* \* \*

"Our mines are now producing almost unlimited amount of silver, and it is becoming a question, 'what

shall we do with it?' I here suggest a solution which will answer for some years to put it in circulation, keeping it there until it is fixed, and then we will find other markets.—(Extract from a letter written by President Grant to Mr. Coudry, Oct. 13, 1873, eight months after he had signed the bill demonetizing silver, not knowing what that measure contained. See page 208, Congressional Record, Dec. 14, 1877).

Can any one doubt the sincerity of General Grant? If there is let him vote for McKinley and the gold standard.

### Did Bimetallism Succeed?

New York Journal: A monometalist contemporary quotes the Journal's remark that bimetallic coinage is not an untried experiment, but was an approved success through the greater part of our national life, and exclaims: "How was it 'an approved success?'"

Did it ever for one month maintain the parity of the metals? Did it ever during the forty years of its existence give us concurrent circulation of gold and silver? If so, when? Did this magical ratio ever do either of these things in any other country? If so, where?

On the very same page our contemporary prints a table that ought to enable it to answer its own questions. The figures show the relative production of silver and gold. For the present century the outputs as given were:

	Gold.	Silver.
	Ounces.	Ounces.
1801-10..	5,715,627	287,469,225 59 to 1
1811-20..	3,679,568	173,857,555 48 to 1
1821-30..	4,570,444	148,070,040 32 to 1
1831-40..	6,522,913	191,758,675 30 to 1
1841-50..	17,605,018	250,993,422 12 to 1
1851-60..	64,482,933	287,920,126 4 to 1
1860-70..	61,098,343	329,267,776 6 to 1
1870-95..	146,539,875	2,513,984,119 17 to 1

If this table had been supplemented by another exhibiting the market value of the metals, it would have shown that while in the first seventy years of the century the production fluctuated so enormously that in one decade only four ounces of silver were produced to one of gold, and in another the disparity was fifty to one, the average annual market ratios ranged for almost the whole time in the neighborhood of 15 1/2 to 1, and never varied more than from 15.04 to 1 to 16.25 to 1. It would also have shown that while the production from 1870 to 1895 approached more nearly to the mint proportions than ever before in the century, the value of silver fluctuated between 15.57 and 32.56 to 1.

"Concurrent circulation" is not the test of a successful monetary policy, although there was never a year in times of specie payments between 1803 and 1874 when silver five franc pieces and gold twenty franc pieces did not circulate together in France, and when both gold and silver were not coined at the French mints. The real test is stability of value. It makes little difference whether one metal or the other or both be in circulation if the fluctuations in value can be kept within narrow limits. Between 1837 and 1873 the gold value of 371 1/4 grains of pure silver never averaged more than \$1.052 or less than \$1.093. The range of fluctuation was less than five cents on the dollar in thirty-six years. Between 1873 and 1895 the gold value of the same amount of silver varied between 49.1 cents and \$1.004. There was a greater fluctuation in a week than there had been with open mints in seventy years. That ought to answer the question whether the policy of open mints proved a success or not, as compared with the one that has followed it.

### Is This "Sound Money"?

Springfield (Mass.) News: The paper and silver currency of the United States amounts to something over \$1,100,000,000. According to the "sound money" men this currency is redeemable in gold. The redemption bureau is supposed to be in the federal treasury. What are its gold assets to meet its self-imposed obligations? Less than \$100,000,000. Its assets are, if its estimate of liabilities is sound, about nine per cent of its liabilities. If this is "sound money" heaven deliver us from it.

As a matter of cold fact, the government is not bound to pay one penny more in gold than its present reserve provides for. It is only because the bankers of two worlds have been putting in their work to their own profit, that the fallacy of gold redemption has been given a moment's countenance. In order to maintain a pretense of solvency on this basis the government has run the country in debt by selling \$200,000,000 worth of bonds simply and only to maintain a vanishing gold reserve.

If the policy was to be kept up, as would be necessary under this same policy, the government debt would be increased at the rate of at least \$100,000,000 per year. It would not be long before our debt would be as great as it was at the close of the civil war, not much longer before the total cost of maintaining this blessed gold standard would be as great as the whole tremendous outlay required to put down secession and preserve the union. This is what "sound money" means. Do you want it?

### Nutshells Without Kernels.

St. Louis Chronicle: A considerable number of people are getting up "nutshells" which he who runs may read, intended to prove that the free coinage of silver would ruin the country, and about an equal number are getting up similar "nutshells" to prove that the single gold standard is a device of the gold barons of Lombard street. These two kinds of nutshells resemble each other in the fact that not even he who stands still, sits down and thinks for half an hour or so, can read them.

## WHY WE OPPOSE THEM.

The Difference—"Conservative" Methods of Certain National Banks.



## ALL AGAINST SILVER.

### COAL BARONS FORCE WAGES DOWN AND PRICES UP.

Let Them Pretend that They Are Afraid That the Working Men Will Be Paid in Cheap Dollars—The Chicago Tribune "Ordered Up."

The following letter was recently addressed to the Chicago Tribune. That paper boasts that it answers all letters received. It evidently made an exception of this one for the very good reason that its publication would have opened the eyes of a large number of the Tribune's readers. We publish it that its influences may not be lost: Editor, Sound Money column, Chicago Tribune—Sir: Its not a fact that J. Pierpont Morgan, who is at the head of the gold movement in this country, and who recently made a profit of \$8,000,000 on a bond transaction (which transaction was only made necessary because we are on a gold basis, and insist on paying our obligations in gold), is also at the head of the anthracite coal trust; which trust has recently raised the price of that article for no known reason whatever except its own voraciousness? Is it not also a fact that Senator J. M. Thurston, one of the leading supporters of the gold party, is the paid attorney of the Union Pacific railroad, a corporation which has robbed the United States government of millions of dollars? Did not the Union Pacific make every

occasion, should now have the interest of a long-suffering public at heart?

It looks to me that, having always robbed the workingman in the past, they wish to continue to do so in the future.

Maybe I am wrong. I sincerely hope so. It is with that hope in my mind and a wish to be further enlightened, that I pen this lengthy epistle to you, relying on your well-known fairness to answer through the columns of your paper.

RICE WASBROUGH.

Republican Official for Silver. Buffalo (N. Y.) Times: United States Commissioner Henry D. Fitzgerald, a life-long republican, who has taken the stump for the republican party in western New York every presidential election since the campaign of Greeley and Grant, has come out flat-footed for Bryan and free silver. Not only does he intend to vote for the ticket, but he says, if necessary, he will take the stump for it. Commissioner Fitzgerald spoke at scores of republican meetings throughout western New York during the campaign of '88. He has been United States commissioner for the past 27 years, during which time he has been of great service to the party.

### Bourke as a Bird.

Oil City Derrick: For a professional jaw-worker like Cockran to refer to the agriculturists as "farmers who labor with their jaws" is an excellent illustration of the pot calling the kettle black. Bourke is a bird. It would be interesting to know the exact price he was paid for his speech.

## SHERMAN'S TWO SPEECHES.

Sherman's plea for labor in the senate of the United States in 1876: We are producing in this country this year, as estimated by Dr. Linderman, some \$40,000,000 in silver bullion. He estimates the total production at \$80,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 will be silver. Why not utilize this silver as legal tender? I admit that if it is made a legal tender, equal to gold, it being a metal not so valuable, it would drive the gold from the country, and the silver alone would remain. By limiting it to a thousand dollars in one payment, ninety-nine transactions out of every one hundred will be transacted with it. And all business between individuals and bankers, between the mechanic and employer, between farmers and their merchants, and all wages, and indeed thousands of transactions which underlie society broad and deep, would be in this coin. The large transactions between the bankers and those between this and foreign nations would continue to be in gold, but the silver would remain here as the coin of the people, and the laboring man as well as the small dealer, and indeed of all those persons who do not deal in millions at a clip.

I therefore, Mr. President, look upon this as one of the great steps toward resumption. It is by utilizing the silver which we produce in large amounts in this country and making it a legal tender as it was heretofore. It remains a legal tender in France, and it is there successful as the coin of the people. It is also a legal tender in many other parts of Europe. France is one of the great commercial nations, and they have retained the double standard; and from my reading I believe if Germany could go back to the double standard it would do it most cheerfully. They believed that the large amount of French coin which had been brought there in a day would remain, and so believing they demonetized all the millions of silver that had been coined all the little principalities and duchies of Germany for ages before and substituted gold exclusively, retaining the French coin so as to make it the coin of the empire. But this imperial coin must go back to its imperial home; and, as I said a while ago, it has left that country in a condition of paralysis and prostration, not surpassed by its sad condition during the Napoleonic wars. It should be received as a fundamental fact so as to guide the statesmen of this country that the reverse of what suits England always suits us. And as the exclusive gold standard undoubtedly suits her, the double standard suits us.—See Congressional Record, March 6, 1876, pages 1472 to 1483.

effort possible to elect Thurston to the senate, knowing full well that its rascality was about to be exposed, and a question of restitution raised? Is it not also a fact that the members comprising each and every one of the numerous trusts, which are fast driving competition from the field and raising the price of every article they handle, are, without exception, active supporters of the same gold party?

Does it not seem strange that the various members of these trusts, which have robbed the public, individually and collectively, on every conceivable

John Sherman's plea for labor at Columbus in 1896: But by far the greatest injury resulting from the free coinage of silver will fall upon workingmen. Their wages are now based upon money of the highest value, upon gold coin of standard value. Under free coinage of silver the value of the silver dollar will fall to 53 cents in gold, or, as I have already said, the hundred cents of the gold dollar will be worth 190 cents of the silver dollar. With free coinage of silver every workingman can and ought to demand enough silver for his daily wages to be equal to the purchasing power of his present wages in gold. The struggle between workingman and employer will then commence and no one knows better than the workingman how difficult it is to get an advance of pay.

We have strikes and strife enough now, when the workingman gets his pay in gold coin or its equivalent, but what will be the condition when he is paid in cheaper money of the same nominal amount, but of less purchasing power? Every sentiment of justice will be on the side of the workingman in his struggle for good money or increased wages in cheap money. Of all the evils which a government can inflict none can be greater than cheap money, whether of coin or paper.

The question will never be settled until you determine the simple question whether the laboring man is entitled to have a gold dollar if he earns it, or whether you are going to cheat him with something else. Gold has made the world respect it all the time. The English people once thought they could get along without gold for a while, but they had to come back to it.

With the free coinage of silver gold will be demonetized. Nothing can be more certain than that the cheaper money only will circulate. The United States has thus far maintained its silver coins at parity with gold coins only by its exclusive monopoly of coinage and by limiting the amount, but with free coinage of silver there could be no limitation. Silver bullion in every form will be pressed upon the mints and with the mandatory duty of free coinage, silver dollars will soon fill the channels of circulation and the gold dollar will be hoarded or will be quoted and sold as a commodity at about 190 cents of the silver coin. Silver will stand as the par of value and gold will be quoted at its commercial value.—See John Sherman's speech at Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 15, 1896.

### May Overthrow the Leaders.

Catskill (N. Y.) Recorder: The people of this state, Major Hinkley, are going to support Bryan and free silver and all they are not going to wait until September before declaring their purpose. Moreover, if some of their old-time leaders don't like it they may throw up their commissions and take back seats.

And now it is claimed that the jaw bones of civilized people are gradually becoming attenuated, chiefly owing to the prolonged use of knives and forks.

## SEND IN YOUR MITE.

### NO BILLIONAIRE COMBINE IS WORKING FOR US.

An Appeal to the Plain People to Help the Election of Bryan—All the Millionaires Working for Mark Hanna's Man.

The appeal for funds which the chairman of the democratic national committee has sent out to the people is one of the most eloquent and significant documents which will appear in the present campaign. We recall the fact that some years ago, when Henry B. Lovering was running against Henry Cabot Lodge for congress, his committee appealed to the masses of the people for money. It was pointed out that Mr. Lovering was a poor man and that he was fighting the poor man's battle. On the other hand, Mr. Lodge was a millionaire, who could command unlimited funds for campaign purposes. The response was generous. Some \$500 was subscribed in sums ranging from \$1 to \$5. Moreover, Mr. Lovering was elected.

A similar condition confronts Chairman Jones. He wants money to carry on the canvass, but he finds that all the customary avenues are closed to him. The trusts, monopolies, the combinations of bankers and capitalists, all men of wealth are pouring their millions into Hanna's coffers. Even the well-to-do democrats who have always contributed to the party exchequer are now either sending their checks to McKinley's managers or supporting an independent organization of their own. So Senator Jones makes his appeal to the people.

In his address to the people the senator says: "We have allied against us in this contest not only the financial forces of Europe but the subsidized press, and all the monopolies and trusts here at home, who are determined, if possible, to fix forever their relentless yoke on labor for all time. To oppose them we must rely upon the patriotism and heroic manliness of the plain people—the toilers who create the wealth which speculators absorb. With unlimited money in their hands, our enemies are printing and distributing misleading and untruthful statements; hired speakers and emissaries are everywhere attempting to mislead and delude the people. To meet and counteract this we must distribute documents for the dissemination of the truth; we must explode their fallacies, their misstatements and their utter selfishness. To do so we need money at once, and can only hope for help from the plain people. We ask only for the necessary means to conduct a vigorous and aggressive campaign. No matter in how small sums, no matter how humble the contribution, let the friends of liberty and national honor contribute all they can to the good cause. To the overflowing treasury of the money power we will oppose the accumulated offerings of the masses, fighting to be free, and ask the Ruler of the Universe for His blessing."

Mr. Jones further notifies those whose contributions he solicits that the headquarters are at Hotel Bartholdi, New York city, and that Mr. William P. St. John, the treasurer, will receive and acknowledge all remittances. It will be interesting to study the effect of this suggestive appeal. Will the people respond? Or will they allow the merciless Hanna to secure a grip upon the national government through the election of the candidate whom he has bought and paid for?

SENATOR BUTLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE, HAS ALSO ISSUED AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

### Ingalls for Free Silver.

In 1878 Senator John J. Ingalls of Kansas, made use of the following language in the United States senate. It should have much weight with Republican voters this year:

"No people in great emergency ever found a faithful ally in gold. It is the most cowardly and treacherous of all metals. It makes no treaty it does not break. It has no friend it does not betray. Armies and navies are not maintained by gold. In times of panic and break. It has no friend it does not become the agent and minister of ruin. No nation ever fought a great war by the aid of gold. On the contrary, in the crisis of greatest peril it becomes an enemy more potent than the foe in the field; but when the battle is won and peace has been secured, gold reappears and claims the fruits of the victory. In our own civil war it is doubtful if the gold of New York did not work greater injury than the powder and lead and iron of the rebels. It was the most invincible enemy of the public credit. Gold paid no old soldier or sailor. It refused the national obligation. It was worth most when our fortunes were lowest. Every defeat gave it an increased value. It was an open alliance with our enemies the world over, and all its energies were evoked for our destruction. But, as usual, when danger has been averted and the victory secured, gold swaggers to the front and asserts the supremacy."

### The Appeal for Funds.

In response to the appeal recently issued by Chairman Jones for popular subscriptions to the campaign fund, many contributions are now being received by Treasurer St. John, at the New York headquarters. In order to systematize this work, Chairman Jones asks all weekly and daily papers in the United States that are favorable to the election of Mr. Bryan and the restoration of silver to its constitutional use as money, to start popular subscrip-

tions in their respective publications. Such editors are authorized by the national committee to act as collecting agents for the campaign fund, and are urged to publish from week to week the names of contributors and the amounts subscribed, and to forward the same to William P. St. John, treasurer national democratic committee, Hotel Bartholdi, New York city. The Kansas City World has already raised \$400 in this manner, and there is every reason to believe that a general appeal will prove popular and successful. The press bureau desires a comprehensive exchange list, and all editors of democratic, populist and free silver papers are urged to mail the same to F. U. Adams, Secretary Press Bureau, Auditorium Annex, Chicago, Ill.

### Which is Right?

Once upon a time there was a farmer who was in great need of a thousand dollars, but he did not have a single dollar. A friend came forward and said to him: "I will let you have the money if you will give me your written obligation to deliver to me a thousand bushels of either wheat or rye after next year's harvest." This proposition was accepted, notwithstanding the fact that wheat and rye were selling at a dollar and a half a bushel. The farmer had neither grain, but he knew he could raise both on his farm, and the contract gave him the advantage of two harvests in which to raise the necessary amount. So the contract was plainly written and signed, binding the farmer to deliver 1,000 bushels of either grain, at his election, at the appointed time. When the time of payment arrived it was found that the market price of wheat had gone up to two dollars per bushel, and the market price of rye had gone down to one dollar per bushel; and the farmer of course elected to pay his obligation in rye. But what was his surprise to find the man who held his obligation insisted on having it discharged by the delivery of a thousand bushels of wheat instead of rye, and all the friends and neighbors of the creditor arose and said "Why, this man came to your rescue when you were in trouble, and now he wants to be paid honest, valuable grain, and it is dishonest in you to even want to pay in rye." "But," says the farmer, "did he not agree to take either grain at my option?" They could not but admit this fact, but still they insisted that the bushel was a "dishonest" bushel and are still so insisting and demanding that the farmer shall not exercise the option given him in his contract, and that "good faith" requires that he discharge his obligation in wheat, and the creditor and his friends even insist that all men of brains will say so. The case is not yet decided. Which party is right, the farmer or his creditor?—X.

### What History Proves.

To those of our readers who believe that the republican party did a great and good act in resuming specie payments we submit the following bit of history taken from Sir Archibald Alison's "History of Europe":

The suspension of specie payments by the Bank of England in 1797 led to the use of an enormous amount of irredeemable paper money.

The result was magical. It terminated in a blaze of glory and a flood of prosperity which has never before, since the beginning of the world, descended upon any nation. Prosperity universal and unheard of pervaded every department of the empire.

Agriculture, manufactures and commerce increased in unparalleled ratio. The landed proprietors were in affluence.

Wealth to an unheard of extent was created among the farmers.

Our exports, imports and tonnage more than doubled, and the condition of the people was one of extraordinary prosperity.

From 1797 to 1819 no financial embarrassments of any moment were experienced, and in vain Napoleon waited for the stoppage of England's financial resources.

But the resumption of specie payments in 1819—the change of the financial system from legal tender paper to metal money—was ruinous to all the industries of England. The distress became insufferable, and in Manchester 60,000 men, women and children assembled, demanded bread or bread, and many of the people were killed and many were wounded by British troops. Cannot the reader who is 35 years old and upwards turn to American history and recall a parallel to the above?

### Bryan's Election Sure.

Denver Times: A New York estimate of Mr. Bryan's strength is utterly unreliable. He will be elected by votes outside of the Empire state. His campaign will be conducted in other states, and when the vote is cast and counted in November New York will have the pleasure of recording, despite its wishes to the contrary, something concerning the strength and the will of the people west of the Erie canal and the flooding coal fields.

### Why Not Again?

Youngstown Vindicator: It is worthy of note that the United States maintained free coinage of silver from 1810 to 1873, without the consent of England or any other foreign nation.

If the free coinage of silver will not enhance the value of silver bullion, how is it going to enrich the silver barons? If it does increase the value of silver bullion and enrich the silver barons, what becomes of your cheap silver dollars? Answers from gold standard men only received.