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A little later a way to melt and coin them was discovered and the coins were marked of so much value and one coin represented a quarter of mutton or a half of mutton or a sheep. So many of them represented a quarter of beef or a whole animal or a whole herd. Later it was discovered that when two tribes went to war, if one had plenty of either gold or silver it could hire the members of the other tribe to fight their own people.

And so these two metals became really sovereign, and the sovereigns of the whole world worked until they got the management of them and the right to coin them and to issue them. And that went on without variation down to 1873, when the congress of the United States, discounting the wisdom of the ages, decided to throw one of these metals back into the province of a commodity and declare it should no longer be called primary money.

At that time, too, the government of the United States owed an interest bearing debt of more than 3,000 millions of dollars and it had a great store of paper promises to pay. These promises were that it should be redeemed in specie, which meant either silver or gold. At the same time the states owed as much money as the federal government, the cities owed immense sums and the railroad and manufacturing corporations of the United States owed more than the government.

And still this wise congress, backed by the wise press of the great east, and in the interests of men who owned bonds of the government and held the indebtedness of cities and states and corporations, declared it was wise that one of these metals should be disgraced else the country would grow to a silver basis.

Its sovereign attribute being taken from it as a measure of values, silver began to fall, when measured by gold, and then the knaves who had combined to destroy it as money, asked the people if they were willing to pay their debts in a light-weight dollar. They impeached the integrity of men who believed all that alled silver was the hostile and imbecile legislation which had dethroned it.

They still had their paper money to be redeemed, they still had the interest-bearing indebtedness and the people paid interest and principal until they paid twice as much as the bonds called for, and in the meantime, their property having to be measured by gold, fell 50 per cent in value. They could not see that it was an inviolable law, they praised the integrity of those financial magnates in the eastern cities who held the bonds, and they derided the dishonest west for wanting to force upon them a discounted money.

They lost nearly all they had; the bondholders grew very rich and formed trusts; they built eastern cities and owned them; they made great money combines and ruled the people mercilessly

and the great soft-hearted American people said it was well.

But all the time the silver remained in perfect preservation like that found under the mast of the derelict schooner, and the debt still remains, and while, during the last twelve years, the gold of the world has multiplied twice as fast as ever silver did, none of them think there is too much gold, none of them seem to be afraid that the country will grow toward a gold basis and they all will be ruined.

But something else has happened to it. More than half the people of this old world know no money but silver. The wise men in the United States count on great trade results with those countries, but as silver continues to fall, measured by gold, so exchanges fall, and now it has reached a point when the United States can sell those countries very little because they cannot afford to buy at gold rates, but they are perfectly willing to sell at silver rates.

Now we would be glad to see some of those wise eastern papers tell us how this difficulty is to be bridged over, or have them frankly acknowledged when they caused silver to be demonetized that they intended then to kill the trade with half the people of the world.

England demonetized silver away back in the early part of the last century. There is a difference in the explanation of why she did. One is that after Waterloo she became the sovereign nation of the earth; her trade was mightily extended; she had more manufactures than all other countries and more ships, and her trade was immense and she wanted all her payments in gold. The other explanation is that she wanted to reduce the price of silver so that she could have easier trade relations with India, and just when our wise men were doing what they could to destroy silver as money, England closed her mints in India whereby the people in that country had been in the habit from time immemorial, when they needed money, to take their bangles and their silver pieces to the mints and have them coined into rupees. Now England is threatened with an insurrection in that ancient country, and those best posted assure us that the reason is more because the mints were closed than for any other reason in the world and that England will never be safe a day in India until she re-opens those mints.

We will be glad to have some wise New York journal explain just what, in its judgment, it is best to do, whether to call the nations together and remonetize silver, or whether to let it drift until our trade is absolutely killed with half the people of the world, and further still, to consider that those same people can make goods and sell them to our own people cheaper than they can make them themselves.

Eastern papers, as a rule, refer to the time when the fight was being made to hold silver as money as "the time of the silver craze." Is there not one in the whole category of them that can explain what real good was done by that demonetization, or how to cure the harm that that demonetization has worked ever since and is working now?

And then we advise them to look at little France who has maintained her currency, gold and silver, and been more generally prosperous than any other nation under the sun, and tell us really whether if the killing of silver was to be done over again they would join in the assault or not.

Allee Samey

THE obsequies of the late emperor and empress of China had cost, up to the close of last year, \$4,500,000, enough for China to have built a Dreadnaught. The Chinese were satisfied, for they felt that they

had got the remains safely planted in the "Cool Hill Mortuary," but the spirits of the departed were uncomfortable and a late edict declares that both the emperor and empress, through their spirits, have protested against their environments and a fresh assessment is required. This reminds us that Dan DeQuille, who was the very captain of reporters, in his work on the Virginia City, Nev., Enterprise, was on cordial speaking terms with all classes from bonanza kings down to roustabouts and Chinamen. He had one especial friend, one Sing Foo, who was the Chinese boss in his particular ward. One day Sing Foo met Dan and said: "Mr. Quille, you sabbie Hop Low? Well, he die las' week. We give him big fun'ral, plenty brass band, plenty yellow papers, but he come back ebvery night; he say he no comfortable. You sabbie yesterday we go on dig him up, open box, what you th'nkie? One leggie draw up this way" (illustrating by drawing up his own leg). Well, we push him down straight, we nalle up box, put him back, cover him up, and las' night he no come back. What you thinkie?" Dan assured him that he believed Hop Low was all right. And Sing Foo said: "I think so. He all lightie." He no all lightie he go to h—l." And it seems the nation is reaching that conclusion over their sovereigns."

What France Lost

AS one looks upon a map of the United States and Canada, his wonder is excited at the thought of what might have been had Montcalm instead of Wolfe been victor on the Plains of Abraham. The French had both banks of the St. Lawrence from its mouth to its source; their hunters and trappers were on both shores of the Great Lakes and they had founded St. Louis and New Orleans and many other towns along the Mississippi, controlling the great river and unlike the Anglo-Saxon they affiliated without trouble with the Indians. One can see at a glance what an empire they commanded. From the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the mouth of the Mississippi, with all the adjacent territory—a world in itself. Suppose they had possessed the prescience to merely keep the peace at home, and devoted the chief power of the parent country to developing and making secure their possessions in the new world, sending all their restless spirits this way, how different might have been French and English history, and how circumscribed would have been the United States. Napoleon had visions of what Louisiana would be, but he saw that as history had progressed he could not hold it; that if he tried to, it would become the prey of England. So he sold it, remarking as he did, that it might some time become a thorn and menace in the side of his great rival. He lived to see the wild riflemen of the wilderness destroy a picked division of the army of Great Britain in a victory so pronounced that he sent an agent to see what kind of guns those backwoodsmen used in that slaughter of Pakenham and his army.

When it was reported that they had nothing but the long muzzle loading Mississippi rifle, he quickly remarked: "I see; it was the men behind the guns," and doubtless his stormy soul went out in admiration of them. At the time, he was throne building in some petty states, petty compared with what he sold for a song, but then it was too late for Napoleon. The defeat in America was twenty years before he was of an age to comprehend what France was losing; indeed, our own countrymen did not comprehend the magnificence of what they had won for forty years after they were in peaceable possession of it. But think of what an empire France really had; from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the two great rivers and the lakes and all the adjoining lands. It includes the St. Lawrence val-