QUERIES FOR BRYAN.

An Open Letter to the Popocratic Candidate for the Presidency.

SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Apprehension Excited by Campaign Utterances Refuses to be Allayed.

The New York World, in an open letter to Candidate Bryan on Tuesday morning, puts some grave and important questions to him, and urges him to answer them if he wants to be elected, as the people are pondering those very points, and their votes will turn on how they are answered and explained by him. The readers of the Tribune should peruse this editorial, which is reprinted here in connection with Bryan's speech at Madison Square garden last night.

The World says, under the caption "To Mr. Bryan:"

To Mr. Bryan: On the 10th of July, the very day of your nomination for President, you addressed a communication to the World in the following words:

To the World: The restoration of silver to its ancient place by the side of gold will, in my judgment, restore the parity between money and property and thus permit a return of general prosperity. The World, which did such effective work in behalf of an income tax, will find a still larger field of usefulness in supporting the gold and silver coinage of the constitution.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

The World has conscientiously considered your courteous request. It has carefully studied your speeches made during and since the Chicago convention. It has studiously examined your record in Congress. It has impartially traced your career as a politician, a lawyer, an orator and editor, in order to obtain an understanding of your real character—the hardest thing in the world to ascertain concerning any man. It has published every word that could be obtained from your eulogists and associates, with the same end in view. It has done all this in the sincere hope that the knowledge gained or impressions received would relieve the fear and apprehension excited by some of your utterances, and particularly by some parts of the Chicago platform, on which you stand.

In this connection it is only just to remind you that the plank in the Chicago platform seeming to reflect upon the integrity of the Supreme court and indicating a purpose to pack that tribunal in order to secure a desired decision, and the other resolution denouncing "government by injunction," have been severely criticised by conservative and law-abiding citizens. The people have a profound and abiding respect for their highest court, even when they are disappointed in their decisions. They would be glad to hear your interpretation of the resolution, which is generally accepted as a stupid and intemperate attack upon the Supreme court and the avowal of the purpose to reconstruct it in accordance with the beliefs of the platform makers should your election present the opportunity. Is this your understanding?

Definition is also called for of the resolution denouncing "arbitrary interference by federal authorities in local matters." This is generally believed to mean "free riot with free silver," as well as sympathy with lawlessness and disapprobation of President Cleveland's action at the time of the Chicago strike. Yet all who believe in law and order as the very life and root-basis of civilized government regard this as one of the most highly creditable acts of his administration. What is your view of it?

Are you, Mr. Bryan, for actual and practical bimetallism—the equal coinage of gold and silver at a ratio that will permit the free circulation of both money metals, as the ratio of 16 to 1 has never done? When you say that you favor free coinage by the United States without waiting for the aid or consent of any foreign government, do you mean that the concurrence of the great commercial nations with which we trade is not desirable and even indispensable if the country is not to sink to a silver basis? Do you really favor the monetary isolation of the United States in the family of great nations? Do we not want our money to be accepted at its face value all over the world? You insist upon "the right of the people of the United States to legislate for themselves upon all questions." This right is not questioned by any, so far as we know. But the right does not imply the duty or the wisdom. Congress has the right to declare that our surplus agricultural products shall be sold abroad. But would such an assertion of national independence benefit the country? Would it have helped the farmers of the United States to have had the $8,000,000,000 of exports in the last ten years kept in the home market, or to have sold them for a depreciated currency while buying in return at gold prices? If you would not favor the isolation of the United States why should you desire its financial isolation?

In the interest of a clear understanding of your position, and to allay if possible the fear and apprehension which you know to exist, will you answer these questions in your acceptance of the presidential nomination, which you are about to deliver? You must perceive in the preparations for a second Democratic ticket, and in the divisions and distractions among your Populist and Democratic supporters at the South, a growing danger to your cause. We assume that you wish to be elected. These are some of the points upon which you can secure votes by allaying apprehensions. You may also be able to do this by replying to these questions, suggested by your telegram to the World:

1. When in the history of this country has silver occupied "its ancient place by the side of gold?" Has there ever been a time when the two metals circulated upon equal terms as full legal-tender money, with the mints open to the free and unlimited coinage of both? If so, when was it?

2. You say that the restoration of that condition will, in your judgment, "restore the parity between money and property." Will you kindly explain what you mean by this? What is the "parity between money and property?" Do you mean that the "restoration" will put up prices, undo the cheapening effects of improved machinery, transportation, etc., and increase the cost of living to all classes of the community? If so, will you kindly explain how this increase in the cost of all commodities is likely to promote "a return of general prosperity?" Will the workingman, whose wages are stationary or nearly so, be made more prosperous by having to pay more for his flour, meat, groceries, chickens, eggs, fruits, vegetables, clothing, household utensils, rent, and all the rest of it? Will even the farmer be better off with a double price for his produce, in the wholly improbable contingency that Europe will consent to pay it, if he must pay double for everything he has to buy?

3. You point us to "a larger field of usefulness in supporting the gold or silver coinage of the Constitution." But what is "the gold and silver coinage of the Constitution?" In what clause of the Constitution, or in which of the fifteen amendments, does the fundamental law prescribe a gold and silver coinage or any other coinage? In which does it mention any coinage further than to authorize the general government to "coin money" and "regulate the value thereof?" Acting under that authority Congress at first authorized coinage at 15 to 1. Was that the "gold and silver coinage of the Constitution?" If so, how has 16 to 1 come to be the coinage of the Constitution? Under the first ratio silver was undervalued and refused to circulate except in the form of worn and abraded foreign coins. Our own silver coins, even the subsidiary pieces, were melted down for bullion because they were worth about 3 per cent. more than gold dollars. In all the period up to the time of the great silver discoveries Congress sought to make the coinage ratio the same as the commercial ratio. It never authorized coinage at any other. Was that the "coinage of the Constitution?" If so, will it be a return to it for us now to establish free coinage at the ratio of 16 to 1 when the commercial ratio is about 31 to 1?

4. Will not free coinage at 16 to 1 reduce the value of the dollar unit by about one-half?

5. Will it not be in fact a repudiation of about one-half of all our debts, public and private?

6. Is there not danger that it will cause the return to us of all the American securities held abroad—government, railroad and industrial stocks and bonds—thus precipitating a panic of giant proportions, with long years of depression to follow?

7. Will not your election upon the Chicago platform cause the calling in, between November and March, of all collectable debts, all loans, all mortgages that have expired? And will not this produce such a distress as this country has never known, particularly in the West and South, where capital and credit are most needed and depend upon confidence as their basis?

8. Will not free and unlimited coinage drive all the five or six hundred millions of gold and gold certificates out of use as money or as bank reserves? Will it not cause a currency contraction of the most disastrous proportions, inasmuch as the utmost capacity of the mints to coin silver cannot make good this withdrawal for several years to come?

9. Will not free coinage place us at once on a financial level with Mexico, India and China, and can we afford to go upon that level?

10. Is there any country in the world today which gives free and unlimited coinage to silver? Mexico does not. India does not. None of the Central or South American States does. We know of no country that does, of no example that can be studied.

11. Is there any country in the world now on the silver basis which is as prosperous as the United States, even in this time of depression? Is there any in which wages are so high as they are here, or in which the dollar received in wages will buy so much? Is there any silver-basis country that has a large commerce, prosperous manufactures, or a well-to-do agricultural class? Is it not a fact that in every silver-basis country in the world abject and hopeless poverty on the part of the masses is the rule?

12. Will you explain to us for our enlightenment and guidance how our country is to escape like conditions if we go to a silver basis, or how we are to avoid the lapse to that basis if we adopt free and unlimited coinage at 16 to 1 when the commercial ratio between the metals is about twice that?

13. And if you tell us, as many free coinage advocates do, that free coinage will raise the commercial value of silver to the coinage rate, will you explain to us how in that case free coinage is to make money cheaper or easier to get, how it is to relieve "the debtor class," how it is to increase the price of wheat or any other commodity?

14. You may be aware that there was last year on deposit in the savings banks of this state alone $643,873,574. This enormous sum belonged to 1,615,178 depositors, giving an average to each of $398.63. It represents mainly the small savings of the thrifty poor. Nearly all of it has been deposited since the present standard of value was adopted by the government. Do you think it fair or just to impair by 47 per cent. or by even 1 per cent. the value of the money in which these deposits were earned and in which today they would be paid?

15. There are in this state 88,719 pensioners. They drew from the government last year nearly $14,000,000. Considering the nature of this debt of honor when justly due—can you look with favor upon any policy that might result in paying them in a depreciated currency?

16. There are in the country 5,838 building and loan association, of which 418 are in New York. These associations have 1,745,125 shareholders—all of the working and saving classes. Their assets last year were $450,667,594, represented chiefly by mortgage loans to homeseekers, of whom 455,000 are members of the associations. These associations have nearly all been organized within the last fifteen years under the existing money standard. Can you think it fair or beneficial to the working people to reduce by 47 per cent., or any lesser sum, the value of these investments of the thrifty poor?

17. Is it not a fact worth consideration in proposing a descent to the silver standard that the thirty-nine old-style life insurance companies alone doing business in this state last year had in force here nearly 2,000,000 policies, insuring over $5,000,000,000. The assessment companies and various benevolent orders have a vast amount more. Would it not be an injury and a wrong to the beneficiaries—of these polices—the widows and orphans, whom a provident love had sought to protect—to compel them to receive in payment depreciated money?

18. The "rise in prices" which you predict as a result of free silver coinage would, of course, mean an increase in the cost of living to all the people—to wage-earners, salaried men, and the whole body of consumers. Do you know of any case in which a rise in wages or salaries has been parallel with the rise in prices? Is there any way to render it certain, or even probable, that the wage-earners will be compensated for the increased cost of living?

19. You attribute the decline in silver to the demonetization of the silver dollar in 1873, though that dollar was not then coined in any considerable numbers, and was not in circulation at all, owing to the fact that silver bullion was worth more in the market than at the mint. Do you consider that the increase in the world's silver production from 61,100,000 ounces in 1873 to 165,000,000 ounces in 1895 had something to do in causing the decline, even though gold, the standard money of all the great commercial nations, and the most sought after of money metals, has also increased its yield meanwhile?

20. You speak of the "crime against silver" involved in suspending the coinage of noncirculating dollars. Has your attention been called to the fact that the government coined only 296,600 silver dollars in 1873, but that from January 1 to June 30 of this year it coined 7,500,412, or 908,691 more than in the entire eighty-one years of its history up to 1873?

These questions are asked in all sincerity. The World would be rejoiced to have it made clear that the policy of free and unlimited coinage at 16 to 1 involves no danger to the country, but promises prosperity to all the people. It would be relieved to have its apprehensions allayed and its misconceptions, if they are misconceptions, corrected.

The Democrats in vast numbers who share this curiosity and these apprehensions stand by what they believe to be the historic policy of their party in regard to the currency. This policy was declared in 1876 and reaffirmed in 1892 in these words:

We hold to the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country, and to the coinage of both gold and silver without discriminating against either metal or charge for mintage, but the dollar unit of coinage of both metals must be of equal intrinsic and exchangeable value, or be adjusted through international agreement, or by such safeguards of legislation as shall insure the maintenance of the parity of the two metals, and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the markets and in the payment of debt; and we demand that all paper currency shall be kept at par with and redeemable in such coin. We insist upon this policy as especially necessary for the protection of the farmers and laboring classes, the first and most defenseless victims of unstable money and a fluctuating currency.

These Democrats still hold to the doctrine of dollars of both money metals of equal value, that the country may have the benefit of a concurrent circulation of gold and silver, and paper redeemable in the same. Why not give these Democrats a chance to vote for you? Why continue the alienation of so large a body of intelligent, honest and conscientious voters? If you are ready for bimetallism, and would welcome international agreement, if it can be secured, to effect a change without possibility of disaster at home, why not say so? You surely cannot object to an established and world-wide parity of value between gold and silver money. Why refuse and reject international agreement?

BRYAN'S CREED.

The Gist of His Long Argument in a Few Short Paragraphs.

I believe it will be a blessing to the United States to lose five hundred millions of gold.

I believe it will be a blessing to the United States to take half the purchasing power out of its five hundred millions of silver dollars.

I believe it will be a blessing for the United States to take half the purchasing power out of its billion dollars' worth of paper money.

I believe that to cut a dollar in two is to double its value.

I believe that 50 cents is twice as much as 100 cents.

I believe that the farmer will be better off when he sells half as much of his produce as he does now at the same rate.

I believe the farmer will be benefitted by having to pay twice as much as he does now for everything he does not raise and must buy.

Since I hold that the farmer would be better off if he sold half as much as he does now at the same rate, it follows that I hold the farmer will be still better off if he sold quarter as much as he does now at the same rate.

Therefore, it follows that I hold it would be better for the farmer if he sold nothing at all, but let his produce rot on his farm.

I hold that the city workingman would be better off if he earned half as much as he does now.

I believe that all the widows and orphans whose means of support is invested in loans will be blessed by getting back 50 cents on the dollar their bread winners toiled for at 100 cents in the dollar, and that they would be still better off if they had to go to the poorhouse.

I believe it would be a blessing for 5,000,000 depositors in savings banks who have laid up $2,000,000,000 by toil at 100 cents to the dollar to get back half the amount of their savings instead of the whole.

I hold that the country would be better off if half the value of the capital of the 4000 national banks, amounting to nearly $700,000,000, were extinguished. It would help business all over the country.

I believe it would be a blessing on the states of the American union if the $600,000,000 deposited by private persons in 4000 state banks were reduced to 50 cents on the dollar or largely lost altogether. This would encourage thrift and animate enterprise.

I hold that the states would be further blessed if half of the $250,000,000 capital in state banks were shrunken to half their debt-paying power. This would help the farmer.

I believe it would be a blessing to towns if the fire insurance companies were so crippled that they could pay only half the face value of risks.

I believe that it would fall like a benediction upon the holders of thirteen billion dollars' worth of life insurance, on which they had paid 100 cents to the dollar, to learn that they can realize only 50 cents on the dollar of their policies.

I believe that it would be an encouragement to home makers to know that the four hundred and fifty million dollars in building association shares were to shrivel to half their value.

I believe that, although owners of silver would not permit the metal to be coined into dollars for Americans when it was worth more to export than to coin, although coinage was free and unlimited, owners of silver are unselfish patriots in desiring to coin unlimited silver into dollars now when they can get a chance to do so at twice the worth of the silver at the market price and half the value in the dollars to the people.

I hold it to be a solemn duty to the 800,000 invalids and the 220,000 widows and orphans on the pension roll of the nation to deprive them of half the amount paid each monthly. It will be especially heroic for those who get along now on $10 a month to contrive to live on $5 a month.

I believe that it is better for the United States to grade down with China and Mexico than up with Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Belgium.

I hold that expulsion of all our gold and contraction of half our silver and paper is expansion of our currency.

I hold that the law of gravitation can be suspended by act of Congress.

I believe a financial quicksand is rock-bottom for a nation.

I believe that the best way to build up a country is to destroy it.

I believe my wife has more political sense than all the politicians in the country. God bless both of us. Amen.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Will Have to Work for It.

After Mr. Bryan shall become president and free coinage shall be accomplished the people who were so eager to establish such a conjuncture of circumstances will finally discover that they are no better off than they were before. Not a man of them will be able to get a dollar, whether worth 50 cents or otherwise, except in the same way that money has always been got. It must be obtained in some sort of honest business or earned as wages. There is no other way in which an honest penny can be got.—New Orleans Picayune.

—Maj. McKinley's talks to the old veterans who call upon him are models of short, patriotic speeches, as have been all his short speeches since his nomination for President. There are few people criticising McKinely as a one-idea man in this campaign.

CANNOT STAND ALONE.

Foolishness of the Declaration in Favor of Monetary Independence.

POPULIST IDEAS OF FINANCE.

Feeble Attempt to Invoke the Nation's Fathers in Support of Free Coinage.

Among all the crazy assumptions of the Populistic platforms, perhaps the most foolish is the one that we can create and maintain a monetary system independent of that of other nations. To make this stroke of idiocy more preposterous, the spirit and the example of the fathers of the republic are invoked to sustain it. The efforts of the fathers were most earnestly and steadily directed to bringing the young republic within the commercial brotherhood of nations, and nothing was further from their thoughts than the idea that the progress of the country could be facilitated by a declaration of financial independence. For sixty years after the passage of the mint act, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese coins were freely circulated in the United States, and were a legal tender for the payment of debts at certain values fixed by act of Congress. In his celebrated Mint Report, Alexander Hamilton endeavored to co-ordinate our monetary system with that of other nations—not to make any violent departure from European practice. The only striking departure that was made in the legislation framed on Hamilton's recommendations was in fixing the coinage ratio between gold and silver at 15 to 1, and the result of this quickly demonstrated what the Populistic Democrats call our "financial servitude." That is to say, it showed that while the mints of France were open to the free coinage of gold at the ratio of 15½ to 1, we could not keep our gold from going where it would have most value. The difference was only about 3 1-3 per cent., but it was sufficient to drive gold out of the country, so that in the words of Senator Benton its extinction was complete.

If the establishment of a ratio of their own was a strike for financial independence of Europe on the part of the "fathers," it was a manifest failure, and established for the first generation of the republic a regime of silver monometallism. But this was not in the least what they desired; in fact, so little were they impressed by the necessity for keeping silver as a part of the circulation that the coinage of silver dollars was suspended by executive order in 1805 and was, for domestic purposes at least, never resumed. That is to say, the fathers were so determined to get back the gold that for thirty years they had been shunting into European mints that they fixed a new ratio, which offered 3 per cent. more to the possessor of gold bullion than he could get in France or Holland. That the bullion in the silver dollar thus became more valuable than the bullion in the gold dollar did not trouble them much, for they, apparently, did not want the silver dollar—halves, quarters and dimes of this metal being sufficient for their wants—and all the subsequent coinage of that much-talked-of but little known piece, "the dollar of the fathers," was for export to the East. Here, again, if monetary independence was what they are aiming at, the result was a failure, for Europe diverted into its own mints the silver of the United States as peremptorily as it had done the gold, for the simple reason that no law could compel the owner of bullion not to take it where he got most for it in returned coins.

But the Populists are determined to have "an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs." Among the preliminaries of such a condition of things, they are at least logical enough to recognize the necessity of interfering with the freedom of private contract. That was a cure for financial lameness not thought of by the fathers of the republic, and is one generally deemed to be contrary to the letter and spirit of the constitution which they framed. But the transformation of the Democrat into the Populist seems, among other changes, to work a surprising indifference to the value of the safeguards of the constitution. From old habit, there is the customary profession of allegiance to "those great essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded," only to be followed by a series of propositions destructive alike of the principles and institutions. On whatever other points the makers of the constitution may have differed, they were entirely at one as to the obligation both of nations and of individuals to make an honest provision for paying their debts.—Rochester Post.

The Difficulty is the Tariff.

In a recent speech at La Grange, Ind., Senator Burrows said:

"With all the vagaries of the three Bryan platforms they all unite in the demand for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1, and to that question Mr. Bryan devoted a goodly portion of his time in his speech of acceptance. He declared that 'times are hard, prices are low, and something is vitally wrong.' It is not the crime of '73, however, but the folly of '92, when Harrison was defeated and the prosperity of the United States destroyed.

"Mr. Whitney says: 'Don't talk about the tariff.' But the whole difficulty today is tariff. When McKinley is president the money question will settle itself.

"More silver dollars were coined during Republican administrations than during all of the other eighty-three years of our history.

"Panic always accompanies free trade. During the thirty years from 1861 to 1892 we had unbounded prosperity; wealth advanced; this republic took a lead in manufacturing and stood ahead of all other nations until March 4, 1893. The public debt was reduced during Republican administrations, and increased under Democratic. There is not a single day but the government is running behind. The deficiency during July, 1896, alone was $13,000,000.

"The results of the Democratic policy are so evident that a new issue was necessary to give them even a fighting chance before the people in this campaign, and so they say that in 1873 the Republican party caused the trouble by demonetizing silver. If that is so why did it not show itself before 1893? We were prosperous in '92, and the crime had been committed before then."

Gen. Walker's Bimetallism.

Francis A. Walker, president of the Boston Institute of Technology, may be called the leader of the bimetallists of the United States, so far as a man not in politics can be called a leader of a movement which has become a political issue. He has been an ardent advocate of international bimetallism for more than twenty years. He speaks with authority on all economic questions, but bimetallism may be called his hobby.

A new book, written without regard to the present situation, but singularly appropriate, has just appeared, bearing Gen. Walker's name on the title page. It is a plea for bimetallism and in strong opposition to the gold monometallists. He says, though, as every other true bimetallist says, that the attempt on the part of this country to coin silver in unlimited quantities free, without an understanding with other nations, would be an assault on the cause of bimetallism and practical suicide for the finances of the United States. In 1878 Gen. Walker said: "For us to throw ourselves alone into the breach, simply because we think silver ought not to have been demonetized and ought now to be restored, would be a piece of Quixotism unworthy the sound practical sense of our people. The remedy of the wrong must be sought in the concerted action of the civilized states, under an increasing conviction of the impolicy of basing the world's trade on a single money metal." This is his opinion today.

As to the possibility of free coinage without an immediate fall to a silver basis, and the strident claim that this country is big enough to "legislate for itself," Gen. Walker points out two facts. The stock of precious metals has so greatly increased in the world, and communication and transportation are so much more rapid than of old, that even France found it impossible in 1873 to continue free silver coinage. Since there is vastly less money metal used in the United States than in France, the influence which this country can exert upon the money market of the world is less than the influence of France. And yet no one accuses Gen. Walker of being less a patriot or less proud of the country for which he fought than the youngest orator of the far West. The difference is that he is a student and a man of sense.—Syracuse Post.

The Money of the Constitution.

What wild talk is this of the "silverites'" convention, "in favor of restoring to the people of the United States the time-honored money of the constitution—gold and silver—not one, but both?" The constitution prescribes no such money, nor any form of money whatever.

But if it is "gold and silver—not one, but both"—that they want, why are they not contented now? Both gold and silver are in circulation now, on equal terms, in larger quantities than ever before. In the twenty-two years since the blood-curdling "crime of 1873" was perpetrated more than fifty times as many silver dollars have been coined as in the eighty years preceding.

The simple fact is that the United States has a very much larger actual supply of full legal-tended silver money than any other country in the world, excepting India and China, and a larger supply in proportion to its population than any other, excepting France, Spain and Holland. It has more gold in circulation, actually, than any in the world, excepting only France, and more proportionately than any European country, excepting Great Britain, France and Germany. It also has more money of all kinds in circulation, and all at par, than most nations of the world.

Less talk and more reflection would convince these would-be currency reformers that we already have what they talk of as "the time-honored money of the constitution," in abundant supply, for every man who is willing honestly to earn it.—New York Tribune.

Mills, Not Mints.

More truth cannot be crowded into an equal number of words than is found in this passage of Maj. McKinley's speech in reply to a congratulatory address from some of his old comrades in arms:

I do not know what you think about it, but I believe it is a good deal better to open up the mills of the United States to the labor of America than to open up the mints of the United States to the silver of the world.

This goes hard and straight to the root of the matter.

Times are not dull in Pittsburg because there is no mint coining silver or gold dollars in that city, but because the great iron works are not running on full time. There was no mint at work in South Chicago when the rolling mills were at work by night and by day, but there was a wage roll of $6,000,000 a year. It was not because of the activity of the mints that Louisiana nearly doubled its sugar output, but because of the McKinley bounty. It was not because the mints were more active in 1891 than in 1893 that in the first year men were striking because they could not earn more than $3 per day, and in the last were hunting for work at 75 cents, and, for the most part, not finding it. The mints were turning out as much money in 1893 as in 1891. But the mills were not turning out so many yards of cloth or tons of iron.

Start the mills and the mints will become active. Return to protection, and the currency will settle itself.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Free Silver and Wages.

A correspondent attempts to explain how wages would be increased under free silver coinage by asserting that "trades unions, through strikes and other means, would force the price of labor to a higher standard." This is sheer nonsense.

Experience has conclusively demonstrated that wages, under a debased system of currency, never increased in the same degree as the money cost of commodities. If there was ever a condition of affairs which was favorable to such an increase it was during the Rebellion. We were not only on a cheap money basis, but the ranks of labor had been enormously depleted to send men to the front to battle for the republic. Yet, what actually occurred? Judged by the purchasing power of his wages the laborer in 1863 received only 76 cents where he had received a gold dollar in 1860; in 1864 he received about 81 cents and in 1865 a little over 66 cents.

But how do workingmen fancy the idea of being compelled to resort to "strikes" in order that their wages may have the same purchasing power that they do now? It will occur to sensible toilers that if free silver coinage is going to precipitate strikes, not really for higher wages, but simply to keep the wages that already exist, it will be the part of wisdom to let well enough alone.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

To Sound Money Democrats.

Here is a brief and simple catechism for sound money Democrats:

"Do you want to beat Bryan?"

"If you want to beat Bryan, do you know of any other way of doing it than by electing McKinley?"

"If you want to beat Bryan, and don't know of any other way of doing it than by electing McKinley, why don't you take your coat off and wade in and elect McKinley?"

Answers to these interrogatories are respectfully solicited from sound money Democrats who declare the currency the paramount issue and yet refuse to act as if they believed what they said.—Boston Journal.

Curiosities of Our Money.

Few persons are aware that silver certificates are not legal tender, though receivable for public dues. The fact was recently, it is stated, forced on the attention of the postoffice department by a person who refused to accept the certificates in payment of a money order. Thus, it seems, the government is obliged to receive silver certificates, but cannot pay them out to any one unwilling to receive them. Should our silver friends become able to legislate, they will doubtless make the certificates legal tender, so as to force the unwilling patriot to take the paper representative of 53 cents at a 100-cent valuation.

HALSTEAD'S LETTER.

Writer Introduces Himself to the Farmers Telling of His Own Rural Experiences.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH FARMING?

Propounds and Answers This Question Advocating McKinley and His Policy as a Panacea.

Special Correspondence of the Chicago Daily News.

New York, Aug. 5.—I desire to introduce myself to the farmers by saying I am by trade one of them, though for a long time engaged in daily labor on the daily papers. There are still some frosty old friends of mine who can testify of their own knowledge that fifty years ago there wasn't a boy in Butler county, O., who could turn a furrow better than I, or was more expert in using plows left or right handed on hillsides or level lands, so as to leave less unbroken land at the turns than I, and there is no light work I would like better now than plowing corn when it is about as high as a plowboy. The trouble then is it is so brittle, and it is very provoking to have the pretty stalks broken—and many a horse I have lammed as a punishment for putting his rude foot into a hill of corn. I was a great boy to bind wheat, rye, oats or barley with double bands, and once I tied up a blacksnake in a sheaf of wheat so tight he could not get out, and there never was a snake or a boy more astonished. I could beat the girls dropping corn—four grains to the hill—and I know all about husking frosty ears of corn with a bone husking peg, held by a strap over the two middle fingers of the right hand; and the accomplishments of digging potatoes without cutting them, and mixing green and dry food for horses, and watching calves become cattle, colts evolve into horses, lambs and pigs bloom into sheep and hogs, are, with all the hopes and fears associated with them, familiar. The practical farmers will detect in these observations the presence of a line of information not pulled out of books or picked up in schools. I know, too, about the way good old farms grow less valuable, in spite of faithful attention, and how it is that some farmers who do not buy pianos on the installment plan find it a pleasant experience to borrow money.

Farmers Are Discouraged.

The news has been circulated a good deal and not conclusively contradicted that this year a good many farmers are so discouraged by the way their affairs have been going that they are ready to do something unexpected in politics—that some of them think maybe there is something in free silver that would just fit their case—therefore, that there are Republican farmers who if not enlightened are liable to vote for Bryan and Watson or Bryan and Sewall. They have heard so much about free silver as a patent medicine to cure the rheumatism, heartburn, earache, fistula, dyspepsia and vertigo that they do not know but they will try it. If they do they will make the same mistake the workmen did four years ago and invite even a greater misfortune than they tumbled upon themselves. There is absolutely nothing in free silver for farmers. Whatever they want for relief it certainly is not depreciated money—dollars debased. We have been going on now with dollars of the same value as that of gold for eighteen years and a change in the purchasing power of a dollar will not help any honest man, unless it is incidentally and in a petty and fractional way.

What is the matter with farming? The owner of one of the finest farms in England, within sight of the forest of Windsor and the towers of Windsor castle, stated to me that wheat had got so cheap in England that the straw was more valuable than the grain. The depression is not exclusively American. The trouble is acknowledged—what is the remedy? Whatever may be wrong, and however difficult it may be to right the wrong, there should not be a farmer in all America so ignorant as not to know that the man who has done most to frame a tariff law to help the farmers is William McKinley.

What McKinley Has Done.

What did he do? Consider sugar bounties, for one thing. If the law had been allowed to remain as he drew it Nebraska by this time would have teemed with beet-sugar manufactories, every one a help to the farmers, and the soil of Nebraska is better for sugar beets than that of Germany—only needs a good start to establish an enormous and invaluable industry. The McKinley duty on barley caused the raising of millions of bushels additional to the average of former crops, and this reduced sensibly the excess of wheat production. This is an example of what we mean by the diversified industry that the protective system promotes. We want more of it, and that is McKinleyism.

Why are wheat and butter down? As to wheat: The use of agricultural machinery and the improvement in transportation has cheapened labor and extended available territory. Argentina is a prodigious wheat field. The soil is admirable, the rivers are deep, the plains give full sweep to the machinery, the railroads have nothing else to do than carry the wheat to market and the steamers carry the grain to Liverpool in huge cargoes. Sailing vessels whose sails are pulled about by steam, saving hands, cheapen the cost of putting down Argentina wheat in Liverpool. Egypt, India, Canada, Russia, compete with us in the wheat market of Western Europe. The world is a sort of country neighborhood.

What is the matter with butter? Let the price of butter go up in New York to 25 or 30 cents a pound—a living can be made producing butter at those figures—what happens? A cable message goes to Australia and there are shipments of thousands of tons of excellent butter at once. And it can be placed in New York and profitably sold at 12 cents a pound. It cannot be produced in New York at those figures. This illustration is not imaginary. The transactions supposed have occurred recently.

What is the remedy? We can answer confidently that the coinage of more silver dollars will not be a help. We ought to raise our own barley, our own hops, our own eggs, chickens, onions and potatoes, to make our own sugar and our own tinplate, so as to give the advantage of our own markets, the most valuable in the world or that ever were in it, to our own people. The production of articles we have just named would turn over to American workingmen 100,000,000 of gold dollars annually, and then custom would improve the value of the farms. There is no patent nostrum about this. Our records are full of the proof furnished by our own experience. The best thing the farmer can do is to try McKinleyism.

Murat Halstead.