

SALT LAKE CITY'S CRY.

The address on the business men of Salt Lake City to the business men of Boston beseeching the latter personally and unbiasedly to investigate the subject of bimetallism, with a view to permitting a continuance of the purchase of silver by the government, and thus restoring confidence to commerce, giving employment to the unemployed and stopping this awful march of ruin and distress, is a remarkably refreshing document. Just as if the business men of Boston had not investigated the subject, theoretically and experimentally, and discovered the folly of it to their great cost and sorrow.—*Boston Herald*.

Boston is noted for the erudition of its professors, the school-learning of its girls, the affected manners of its boys and the abnormal proportion of its prize fighters to the general population. Its newspapers are not always given to civility, courtesy or honesty, however, and the above extract is a fair sample of this peculiarity. It may not be amiss to suggest that the request referred to was not one for aid or assistance of any kind; it was an appeal to those who are presumed to know something of commercial affairs to give themselves, their neighbors and the rest of the country the benefit of a conclusion not based upon insufferable arrogance and self-sufficiency, but upon a thorough and impartial investigation. The West has not begged and is not going to beg anything whatever from the East, more particularly from Boston; and our boastful friends in that region may yet find out if they do not already know that this is much the most independent part of the country when put to it.

WOODEN SILK.

The subject of sericulture is an important one in a commercial sense; also does it look to the gradual reduction of imports by making them unnecessary. In both these lights is it thoroughly understood in Utah, where the industry already has a secure footing and is growing steadily apace. It may be of interest to those who are thus engaged and to some others to know that the silk worm is no longer the autocrat of the industry, the manufacture of silk from wood having become a practical success in France, where the process of M. De Chardonnet, which received high honors at the Paris exposition of 1889, has been further developed. French manufacturers express the belief that the new silk has a great future before it. A report of the United States consul at St Etienne states that in the manufacture the pulp is carefully dried in an oven, plunged into a mixture of sulphuric and nitric acids, then washed in several water-baths and dried by alcohol. The product is dissolved in ether and alcohol. The resulting colloid is forced by an air-pump through a filter, and run into a horizontal tube provided with three hundred fine spouts closed by stop-cocks. A thread of extreme delicacy issues from each spout. The ether and alcohol, causing the thread to be soft and sticky, are washed out in water, when a fiber as elastic, brilliant and

strong as ordinary silk is ready to be wound on spools. The dangerous inflammability of the wood silk is said to be reduced by passage through a solution of ammonia.

SCHOOL LANDS.

CROYDON, August 26th, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

In looking over one of the late papers I saw a reference to a sale of some school land in Utah county, and thinking a little information in regard to school lands would be of great benefit to many of the readers of the News, I submit the following questions for your consideration:

- 1—Is any of the school land for sale and if so what portion?
- 2—Who are the persons who have authority to sell school land?
- 3—Can school land be rented or leased for a term of years?

An answer to the above questions in the columns of the News would much oblige,
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There are no school lands for sale; the Territory can lease but not sell them. The power to lease is vested in the county courts, which may lease such lands for a period not exceeding three years. For further particulars see Utah Statutes of 1892, page 94.

RAVENS TO THE REAR.

Finance is not only a profound science in the abstract, but its application is so thoroughly interwoven with difficulties, contradictions and general mysticism that the wisest among its devotees "gaug aft agley" and this, too, when there is least reason to expect it. Their forecasts are not always sustained by realization; in fact we believe it to be oftener the case that they fall short of the mark or go beyond it than they score a point for making an exact hit. Finance seems to possess an individuality of its own, and a very self-willed and aggravating one it sometimes appears to be.

It is a subject to which men of eminent scholastic attainments coupled with great natural ability have devoted the greater part of a lifetime, only to find that now and then they have not diagnosed a given case properly. And yet there are few in any part of the civilized world but believe they know something of this most abstruse and occult science. We seem to have rather more than a full share of the genus financier in this city. They not only know, or want us to believe they know, the root of every financial ill but the pathology thereof. In their mouths such expressions as "demonetization," "single standard," "goldbug," etc., have easy and continuous lodgment from which they emerge every time there is one or more willing to hear them. The study of and demonstrated facts regarding the histories and customs of nations, the peculiarities and special functions of the metals, the relations of money to the affairs of life and so on are shown by such generosity to be so easily accessible to all that the time, means and labor, which the savant spends in acquiring knowledge thereof must have been thrown away. If the curbstone financier is to be be-

lieved, President Cleveland is a man whose only aims in life are the destruction of the institutions he has sworn to uphold, the pauperizing of his countrymen and the prostration of every branch of trade; "if he were to come west," many of them say, "it would be the worse for him; he would never leave it alive." When we hear such things we are tempted to believe there is a little more freedom in this country than is good for it.

A few weeks ago the United States was threatened with a depletion of gold currency, the outflow to Europe was so heavy and continuous. The ravens here and elsewhere found much dark-hued delight in all this and dwelt with sombre raptures upon the rapidity with which we were going to the bows. They were adrift without a reckoning as usual. Suddenly and positively without warning the tide turned, the outflow ceased and an inflow greater in proportion than the cause of alarm preceding it set in. European gold is now coming this way, and has been for two or three weeks, in a steady, almost unbroken stream. It is wonderful, but it is true.

Referring to the fact that \$23,000,000 gold came over in one shipment, the *New York Journal of Commerce* says the bottom fact of the whole business is that the credit of the United States remains unimpaired, and more than that: it is high enough and strong enough to draw many millions from the gold deposits of any other country. There has not been an event for more than thirty years which is so significant as this. It indicates the really unlimited power of the United States in financial matters. It must be remembered that the condition was in the last degree unfavorable. The business of the country was already prostrated to a most unusual extent, and there was reason to apprehend that failures of banks and firms and closing of manufacturing establishments would continue without abatement. At the same time foreign powers were contending with each other for the control of the gold reserve of the two continents. With the credit of the United States supposed to be weakened by unwise legislation to a dangerous extent, with the industries of this country depressed as they have not been before for more than twenty years, it seemed by no means probable that the government credit would suffice to draw from Europe under the peculiar circumstances more than \$20,000,000 of gold in a single week. It must be recognized that a tremendous financial power is disclosed by these events. The Republic, even when its industries are more depressed, has a control over the finances of the world which has never yet been fully tested. This is due to the enormous earning power of the people, and to the fact that this is the best of all fields for investments of capital, and that at the same time this country offers to labor the best opportunities. The effect of this transfer of wealth upon markets and industries in this country no one can accurately measure.

When strong silver men like Henry M. Teller, United States senator from Colorado, finds that there has been more apprehension than the circum-