

although great financial Minds are giving this question careful attention still a humble person may advance an idea worthy of consideration. I think it is a great mistake that the present dollar was ever coined," etc., etc.

The letter goes on to the extent of two feet of foolscap paper, the sheets of which are pasted together in one continuous strip, to say that the writer does not believe in free coinage and to propose that the silver dollar should be limited to 460 grains.

You note that the writer speaks of himself as "a humble person."

The most of these writers are humble. Here is one from Missouri:

SECRETARY CARLISLE,  
Washington D. C.

"We, though a humble farmer, would like to ask your honor a few questions concerning the financial situation of our country. What has caused the Democratic party to depart from Jeffersonian principles on the silver question? \*

\* We have the utmost confidence in you as a financier, but we fail to see anything but discrimination against silver under Cleveland's administration."

#### LETTERS FROM BANKERS.

Many of these letters are from business men. Not a few of them are well written, and contain good suggestions. A big Ohio business man introduces himself as follows:

"CINCINNATI, Ohio, August, 1893. "Hon. John G. Carlisle, "Washington, D. C.

"My Dear Sir: Drops from Heaven make oceans. Drops from individuals have been known to change governments. A drop from one as obscure as myself might work wonders."

The man then goes on to discuss the financial situation, and went on to say that the trouble lies in the national banks. He states that the people have lost confidence in them, and he would have them amended so that no one connected with the bank, from the president down should have the right to borrow of the bank.

A letter from one of the best known New York bankers, in speaking of the stringency of the money market, says:

"Why, I had a man in my office today who owes only \$280,000 and who has property, which at an extremely low valuation, is worth more than a million and a half of dollars. He cannot get extensions, and he will have to fail."

This banker urges that something be done at once and says that Congress will have a corpse to deal with if it does not act very soon.

A letter from a Baltimore banker reads as follows:

"Hon. John G. Carlisle, Secretary of the Treasury.

"Dear sir: As a sound Democrat, a Cleveland man and a believer in arithmetic, I protest against any refusal to redeem the treasury notes of 1890 in gold. The letter then goes on to say why he protests and to predict a panic.

Some of the letters come from foreign countries. A famous bimetalist of England writes fifteen pages of type-writing showing how his scheme will solve the currency question, and there is a letter from one of the most famous ex-senators of the south advising Secretary Carlisle to adopt his views, and thereby become the "next President of the United States."

#### DOWN ON WALL STREET.

A large part of the correspondence is filled with denunciations of Wall street. Here is a letter from New York, which is a fair sample of this class:

"Hon. Secretary Carlisle, Buzzard's Bay, Mass.

"I thank you! I honor you! Pay no attention to the banks or bankers, except to be sure the proper officer watches them. They will bear that! Wall street reflects the fires of hell raging in the speculative bosom now. The best of the bankers cannot refrain from bias. The country is all right. Coolly pursue the even tenor of your way. The country is rich. Crops good. Health good, and the good Lord over us all. We have confidence that the fearless and unpartisan cabinet now in control is levelheaded and neither fears friend nor foe.

"Country first, party afterward.  
(Signed) YOUR ADMIRER."

Another letter from a Pennsylvania lawyer reads:

"Hon. John G. Carlisle, Washington, D.C.

"My Dear Sir: For God's sake keep our country out of the hands of the financial kings; the bullion brokers, the railroad wreckers, the stock gamblers and such like gangs."

The letter goes on in favor of free coinage, and concludes with an appeal to Mr. Carlisle to stand up for the sake of the party.

WANTS THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT AS  
BANKER.

One of these anti-banking letters is written on eight thin strips of paper about two inches wide and twelve inches long. It is closed with a request that the writer be pardoned for not copying his notes, as he is very busy. His eight pages begin as follows:

"To the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury:

"Dear Sir: Your position of relying upon the views of others rather than the New York bankers is the correct one. The banks are no more nor less than an immense money trust, organized to enrich themselves at the expense of the whole country. Bank stocks in twenty-five years in New York city have risen from par or below to from 500 to 5,000 per cent. The government ought to do a general banking business. It ought to send money from place to place. It ought to issue \$100,000,000 of bonds at 2½ per cent and form a safe and convenient method for the investment of savings all over the country. Let every citizen be a stockholder in the government and we will be all right. The people are with you. Be courageous, as you have thus far, and all will come out well."

My next letter is from a newspaper editor. He lives in Illinois, and compliments the Secretary on his standing out against the banks and Wall street.

Another letter, from Tennessee, denounces the Wall street brokers as thieves, and underscores the words "the people say down with Wall street." This man is a wholesale cigar dealer, and he is anxious to have state banks.

WANT TO PAY THE PENSIONS IN SILVER.

A large number of these letters suggest various ways of getting our silver into circulation. One is as follows:

WILMINGTON, ILL., August 2, 1893. To  
Secretary United States Treasury,  
Washington D. C.

Why not pay the pensions in silver?

Yours respectfully,  
(Signed)

A New York letter on a page of legal cap advises Secretary Carlisle to see that silver banks be created and that the silver war be closed in this way. Another party advises that the silver be shipped out of the country in the place of one and two dollar notes and states that the women of the United States would so object to the use of the silver dollar that no man would dare to raise his voice in favor of it. On the other hand, a farmer telegraphs from Wisconsin asking that silver be kept as the standard of value, and another farmer writes as follows in favor of greenbacks:

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Hon. John G. Carlisle,  
Secretary of the Treasury, Wash-  
ington D. C.

Dear Sir: If you have the power for God's sake issue greenbacks enough to relieve the present strain and save the people of the west from financial ruin! The general sentiment of the people will sustain you.

Yours respectfully, &c.,  
(Signed)

Another letter advocates a bank at Washington run by the government the Bank of the American Republic to be run on the reserve and credit funds of the nation, with a capital of \$600,000,000, and there shall be branch banks in the various states.

#### IDEAS FROM THE WEST.

A Chicago man wants the one, two and five cent pieces made of silver instead of copper and nickel.

A Cincinnati man begins by saying he would not presume to advise the Secretary, and then goes on with ten pages of closely-written foolscap, telling him just what he ought to do.

A St. Louis man sends a typewritten essay of fifty pages asking the Secretary to read it, and telling him he has written it for him.

An Illinois statesman wants three hundred million dollars of twenty year three per cent bonds issued at once, and national banks to be formed on them as a basis.

An Ohio man warns the Secretary that "if he and Mr. Cleveland think they can full the people and play into the bankers' hands all the time, that they will wake some fine morning and find a new set of men selected who will do something for the people." He denounces the government for paying out gold on the coin certificates, and he closes with a quotation, which he alleges is from Lincoln. It reads:

"You can fool all of the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all of the time. But you can't fool all the people all the time."

#### THE COMBINATION DOLLAR.

One of the queerest of these cranky letters is one which contains a model made of lead and brass representing a combination silver and gold dollar. The silver is run around the edge in a hoop about a fourth of an inch wide, and inside of this hoop there is to be soldered a little gold coin, the whole making up a coin about as big as a fifty cent piece. The man says he has invented the coin combination, and will be glad to give it to the government for a consideration. It contains two-fifths silver and three-fifths gold, and he has a little patent