

silver advocates have been longing for—demanding—and which our cotemporary, after showing the impracticability of the thing, proceeds to state we ought to have!

The *Tribune* proceeds with its logic by pointing out that it is idle to claim that iron and steel are worth as much as they were several years ago. They are produced much more cheaply than they used to be, the labor of fewer men being required to turn out an equal number of tons per week than was the rule previous to the introduction of the most modern processes, and then it concludes that the same is true of silver in a modified form. But to what extent and how modified? This part of the statement is provokingly omitted, but it is a safe guess that the meaning is that modification means only a difference in grade, that there is no more of a disposition to make actual money of silver than of iron or steel, in fact they are all named in the same connection. This is the particular feature of the silverphobists' platform to which we of the West most strenuously object. Silver must not be classed with inferior metals because it is not in any sense inferior. It is as royal as gold and just as useful in nearly all respects. After having humbled it do not add defamation to the offense.

The *Tribune* proceeds to say that silver cannot be treated any other way than on its merits, which is just the way we would have it treated and not have its merits ignored, as has been the case for so many years. "In other words," it says, "treated precisely the same as gold is." This is a more pronounced solecism than the first statement noted. The idea of a long article showing, or trying in a labored way to show, that silver cannot rank with gold, that, in fact, its place is among the coarser metals and ranking above them but very little, that gold is the single and only standard of values, and then in the same article declaring that silver and gold must be treated in the same way! It then declares that "this is what the 'silver maniacs' do not want." What is what they do not want—that silver be treated as iron is or that it be treated as gold is? Since you advance both propositions you could hardly expect any one, and least of all a maniac, to decide which phase of the subject to reply to. Then we have a lot more regarding the loose-minded people who see nothing criminal or dangerous in silver being money, the article concluding as follows:

They demand that silver shall be rated in the shape of money more than 50 per cent higher than its commercial value as bullion. The ounce of silver cannot again be worth \$1.20 except by cutting down the value of the measuring unit, which would be as absurd as to cut down the capacity of the bushel measure in order to make it appear that a given crop of grain was greater in quantity than would be reported under the rating by the bushel measure now in use. The ounce of silver would not buy a single grain of wheat or corn or inch of cloth more than that purchasable with its bullion value if the demands of the free coinage men were conceded. The holder of a gold dollar would no more consent to exchange it for a silver dollar containing but 371½ grains of pure metal than he would to swap a bushel of wheat

for a bushel of corn. The people who talk about legislation being all sufficient to raise the purchasing power of the dollar talk arrant nonsense.

We go a step further than you charge us with by demanding that silver be taken out of the field of "merchandise" altogether and made money of at a fixed ratio with gold. And why is it that the worth of silver can never reach \$1.20 except by cutting down the unit of value? Who and what made gold such unit, and have you not declared that it and silver should be treated alike? Is gold merchandise and is its value regulated by silver? If not, how can the equal treatment demanded occur from your point of view? And then that statement that the holder of a gold dollar would not exchange it for a silver dollar is one in which the element of truth as well as of logic is invisible; neither the *Tribune* nor any other paper nor any man knows of a silver dollar ever having been refused in exchange for anything except in peculiar cases; on the contrary, all are glad to get it, not because it is so much merchandise but because it will buy merchandise.

It seems idle to contend with those who will not see because, perhaps, of some interest which we know not of. Let them go their way in peace; they may undergo an awakening some day.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPENSES.

The talk regarding a treasury deficit at Washington still goes on occasionally, but not so persistently as a short time ago, especially during the campaign. The cause of the falling off is doubtless due to the fact that the ship of state has been gliding steadily along without encountering financial or other breakers, and this kind of thing naturally enough begets confidence, the natural forerunner of a cessation of inquiry. The government has paid its way so far, meets all proper demands upon it with ready cash, and there is not a merchant or other business man in the land but what would say that this, at least in the case of an individual or house, meant unquestionable solvency. There is, however, a vast difference between the cases. The national secretary of the treasury, if he has the necessary ability and tact, can always find sufficient available resources to tide the government over any present or prospective shortage, this of course having reference to a situation like the present when we have no war on hand and are not threatened with any.

The total receipts of the government for the last fiscal year were \$354,939,784, against an array of expenditures amounting to \$345,023,330, one treading uncomfortably close on the other's heels. The narrow margin of \$9,914,453 is utterly insignificant in contemplation of the whole sum or the needs of the country for a single year; but in one sense it is all there is to draw on till the returns from another fiscal year or half year are in, and thus have the "calamity people" a basis for their real or affected forebodings. It should also be remembered that no account is made of the sinking fund in the fore-

going statement, this being the amount necessary for the steady extinction of outstanding indebtedness; but as that fund is a long way ahead of present or immediately prospective requirements it need not be taken into the account.

Following is the fiscal statement of the year, showing in what ways the money was received and disbursed:

	Six months fiscal year 1893.	Six months fiscal year 1892.
Receipts:		
Customs.....	\$100,576,227 60	\$95,722,341 83
Internal revenue	84,613,697 36	77,057,281 60
Miscellaneous....	9,061,115 36	11,554,265 89
Total receipts..	\$194,251,040 32	\$174,143,489 31
Expenditures:		
Civil and miscel.	\$51,195,390 21	\$49,810,452 59
War.....	26,188,155 95	24,778,706 36
Navy.....	14,122,494 81	15,056,945 57
Indians.....	5,132,458 65	6,497,975 46
Total ordinary expenditures	\$96,608,489 61	\$96,172,078 98
Pensions.....	80,428,903 72	61,341,227 16
Interest.....	13,418,373 06	9,564,954 74
Total expendi- tures.....	\$190,450,766 42	\$167,078,260 88
Surplus revenue..	\$3,800,273 90	\$7,065,228 43

The increase in expenditures and that in receipts are thus seen to maintain a fairly even ratio. The pensions item shows an advance much greater than some of those who look upon it that pensioners are steadily dying off will be able to understand; the increase is \$19,082,678, this being just offset by the advance in receipts for the current six months—\$20,107,157. Look at it as we may, it is rather close sailing and a comparatively slight falling off on one side or increase on the other might make things fiscal at headquarters awkward if nothing more.

A NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

The *Chicago News Record* makes mention of a bill about to be introduced in the Illinois house of representatives which if passed will prove a benefaction to cable-car gripmen as well as to those who operate electric and other street cars. The proposed law, it says, will compel railroad companies to provide cars with compartments properly constructed of glass for their operatives. Humane considerations commend this bill to all unselfish persons. There is no reason why street car employees should be compelled to work in the exposed places where they are now placed, though of course the sight may not be so clear through glass as when wholly unobstructed. Yet, properly protected from inclement weather, these men should be more trustworthy and less likely to precipitate dangers. Since they have the lives of others in their charge nothing should be left undone which will enable them to be vigilant and reliable. It is to be hoped some such protection against the elements will be adopted here and elsewhere and that too without delay.

AN ITALIAN savant has invented a machine that will weigh a thought. Whereupon a cotemporary suggests that he should now turn his attention to a machine that will weigh the consequences. When he can accomplish the feat of determining the heft of incorporeal things perfectly, we would like to have him stop this way and try his hand on one of our tons of coal.