ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1850.

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

9 to 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1891 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY.

BETTER THAN GOLD.

Better than grandeur, better than gold,
Than rank and titles a thousand fold,
Is a healthy body and a mind at ease,
And simple pleasures that always please;
A heart that can feel for another's woe,
With sympathies large enough to enfold
All men as brothers is better than gold.

Better than gold is a conscience clear,
Though toiling for bread in a humble sphere,
Doubly blessed with content and health,
Untried by the lusts and cares of wealth,
Lowly living and lofty thought
Adorn and ennoble a poor man's cot;
For mind and morals in nature's plan
Are the genuine tests of a gentleman.

Better than gold is the sweet repose
Of the sons of toil when the labors close,
Better than gold is the poor man's sleep,
And the balm that drops on his slumbers deep.
Bring sleeping draughts on the downy bed,
Where luxury pillows its aching head,
The toiler simple opiate deems
A shorter route to the land of dreams.

Better than gold is a thinking mind,
That in the realm of books can find
A treasure surpassing Australian ore,
And living with the great and good of yore.
The sage's lore and the poet's lay,
The glories of empires passed away;
The world's great dream will thus unfold
And yield a pleasure better than gold.

Better than gold is a peaceful home
Where all the fireside charities come,
The shrine of love, the heaven of life,
Hallowed by mother, or sister, or wife.
However humble the home may be,
Or tried with sorrow by heaven's decree,
The blessings that never were bought or sold
And center there are better than gold.

F. RYAN.

SPURIOUS CURRENCY.

CLEVER COUNTERFEITERS OF PAPER MONEY WHICH BOTHER THE TREASURY OFFICIALS.

[From the Denver News.]

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The recent circulation of fresh counterfeit paper money, which even Uncle Sam's engravers at the bureau of engraving and printing confess their inability to distinguish from their own work, has called public attention very strongly to a menace to the country's finances that is practically new. Photographic and photochromic processes of late invention have rendered it easy for forgers to reproduce any note or certificate with absolute perfection, so far as the designs are concerned. As for the paper to print them upon, the government sells it—the real stuff, of treasury manufacture—at a cheap rate to any one who wants to buy. If you don't believe it you can easily obtain from the secret service bureau here a full account of the manner in which, not long ago, a skilled operator took a large number of real one dollar bills, washed them in a chemical bath so as to remove every trace of printing, and then used the plates he had then prepared to print on the same paper as many $500 bills, the profit on each being $499. That the counterfeit was effective is sufficiently demonstrated by the fact that in one day he passed four of the $500 notes on one bank, not being afraid to hand them right over the counter to the receiving teller, who took them without question. There were one or two almost imperceptible defects, which caused them to be detected, but that was because they were engraved by mechanical process. In photography there is no error, and that is the reason why the forger today is in a position, for the first time, to make a treasury note or a certificate on Uncle Sam's own paper that no man, however expert, can tell from a real one. It is for this reason that the chief of the secret service urges, as a last resort, that each denomination of United States paper money shall have a distinctive paper of its own, the imitation of which shall be forbidden by legal enactment. Even thus the safeguard is a very insecure one, and the fact is recognized that the fight against the forgers must be fought from this time on upon more perilous ground than ever hitherto.

ITALIANS ARE EXPERTS.

It is an interesting thing, in view of the present Italian complication, to consider the fact that the Italians in this country, according to the records of the secret service, are so peculiarly addicted to the crime of counterfeiting that in a single year more people of that nationality have been arrested and convicted on this charge than all other nationalities put together. Most of those caught, too, were Sicilians, the tribe to which nearly all of the lynched New Orleans murderers belonged. Desirable citizens, truly! One feature characteristic of Italian counterfeiting methods is a widespread organization, seldom betrayed by traitors, which renders it possible to issue the same forged money simultaneously from points a great way apart—a scheme calculated to occasion the government detectives much trouble in their efforts to discover the source of supply and track down the producer.

CLUMSY WORK ON COINS.

The counterfeiting of coins has by no means kept pace of recent years with the improvements which the forgers of paper money have been able to accomplish. Most of them are very clumsy and it is only once in a while that a piece of metal appears which occasions discomfort to the authorities. About the only dangerous coin out at present is the bogus silver dollar which the secret service is applying its energies to wiping out. It combines in a most unusually accurate degree the essential elements of "ring," weight and "appearance." On the whole, the counterfeiting of coins would not appear to pay, inasmuch as seven-eighths of the makers of imitation money captured are in the coin business. It must be remembered, however, that this branch of the profession attracts very many votaries whose knowledge and skill are not equal to reproducing cash on paper. The latter is the educated branch. Most counterfeits of gold coins are merely alloys, each $5 piece containing $1 worth of the precious metal or in some such proportion. There is no very remarkable one out at present. There are limitations to the possibilities of coin-forging which it is to be feared will preclude its ever reaching the status of a fine art.

A CURIOUS TRICK.

America is the birthplace of mechanical genius, par excellence. One cannot but admire the New Hampshire gentleman who not long ago devised what he appropriately termed a "boodle machine." It was a contrivance much the shape of a lemon-squeezer, only that in the places where the halves of the lemon go were set two dies for the obverse and reverse of a $5 gold piece. The inventor made it his business to travel in rural parts and to approach enterprising agriculturalists of means on the subject of his machine. Money comes notoriously slow in farming, and thus it is perhaps that the small rustic capitalist is apt to have an inclination for accumulating cash rapidly by means legitimate or otherwise. Upon this more or less criminal propensity of his the green goods men do feed and wax fat, but they lie in wait for their victim when he visits the wicked city with a wallet full of greenbacks and a heart filled with guileless confidence in the good intentions of the ostensibly benevolent stranger who has won a prize in the lottery. The New Hampshire gentleman, on the other hand, sought the farmers on their rural estates, and his method was to show them how easily $5 gold pieces could be manufactured with his machine and to take them into partnership on a basis of half-share in the profits. In one side of the squeezer, when closed, was inserted a funnel, into which a curious metal alloy was poured, melted. As soon as it had time to cool the squeezer was opened on its hinge, and lo! there was a $5 piece of gold sure enough—save that it had a silvery color. This, however, was quickly rectified by the Yankee, who dropped a little liquid on it, from a bottle, whereupon it turned a permanent golden hue and was to all appearance everything that a $5 gold piece should be.

Nor was this surprising, inasmuch as the coin was actually a five-dollar gold piece, fresh from the United States mint. The secret was all in the machine, which was constructed not to cheat Uncle Sam but to deceive the farmer. The melted metal poured in simply poured into a concealed cavity in the squeezer, while the New Hampshire gentleman, in locking the contrivance ostensibly to make the cast, touched a knob which caused a real $5 coin, previously put in, to slide into the sunken hole occupied by the die on one side. Thus, when the affair was opened the gold piece appeared as if it had been newly molded. It had previously been coated thickly with quicksilver so that it was only necessary to put a drop or two of acid upon it in order to eat off the mercury and expose the gold of the coin. The purpose of the quicksilver was merely to make the newly cast coin the same color of the metal poured in. Of course the enterprising farmer was willing enough to put $500 or so into so promising a scheme for turning out $5 gold pieces ad infinitum, and the New Hampshire gentleman walked away with the cash. The latter had no use for counterfeiting when he could earn real money so easily.

SOME NOTORIOUS COUNTERFEITERS.

One of the most remarkable counterfeiters that ever lived—at present in jail, happily—is John Peter McCartney, known as the "King of Koniackers," who has a record of thirty-five industrious years' employment in the business. This ingenious old scoundrel has figured as a capitalist during that period, providing the money required in nearly every important combination of forgers on this side of the water. At one time he traveled and gave a series of lectures about "How to Detect Counterfeit Money," most of the change he gave at the box office being of his own exclusive manufacture. But the most famous and successful of all forgers known to history are Charles H. Smith and the celebrated Brockway, who have been engaged in this exciting industry ever since boyhood, though both are now old men. Their skill in their chosen occupation has never been equaled up to the present time. For a generation they kept the government authorities in a fret, the climax arriving when they issued the famous $1000 bond, which only an accident prevented them from negotiating to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars with banks in Chicago that declared their willingness to take the securities as genuine even after the agent of these malefactors had been captured with them in his valise. But the conscientious toil which these men have applied to their profession has been sadly unprofitable on the whole. After a lifetime spent in emulating the best efforts of the treasury department in the engraving line, they were so cornered a while ago as to be compelled to court mercy by giving up the work of years in the shape of about a car load of plates and dies. In this collection, subsequently destroyed, there were the materials for turning out, at the expense only of printers' ink and labor, notes and certificates of every denomination, as well as coins of all sorts and of every metal. The wonderful bond plates have been preserved as curiosities for exhibition to privileged visitors. One pair of plates Smith could not give up, because they had passed out of his possession. They were for a $500 United States note, which is so perfect as to have been passed repeatedly at banks. Wherever they are they are dangerous, because they may be used again at any time. The secret service would give a great deal to get hold of them. The only flaw in the counterfeit is a slight blur on the end of the nose of the person who figures in the central vignette, but that might be rectified.

WORK OF THE SECRET SERVICE.

The main object sought always by the secret service where a counterfeit is concerned, is to obtain possession of the plates or dies. So long as they are in existence, unseized, they mean danger. Hence, it is customary to extend the utmost leniency of the law to forgers who will give up the perilous properties—light sentences, sometimes even pardons. But it is a part of the business of the government detectives to watch continually every counterfeiter who has been let out of prison, in order to see that he does not continue his criminal career. In most cases the freed criminal has a mastering inclination to return to his old industry, and the United States treasury would be "in" a great many dollars if forgery was now, as formerly, a capital offense. Men who made an occupation of counterfeiting for a long lifetime were unknown in the old days. The difficulties which attend the catching of counterfeiters are much greater than might be surmised offhand. In the first place the man who manufactures the money is not even known to those who circulate it. Usually, he establishes confidential relations with a rural hotel keeper for example. The latter is supplied with a stock of bogus bills or coin, which he keeps buried under ground. From the hotel keeper persons whom mine host has reason to trust buy the "stuff" at an average rate of 60 cents on the dollar. They pass it. If one of them is caught, he may "peach" on the hotel keeper, but his assertion will not furnish convicting evidence against the hotel keeper. Necessarily the hotel keeper will deny the charge and he must be acquitted unless the bogus money be found on his premises. It is not apt to be found because it is securely hidden below ground somewhere that he only knows of, and to discover it is almost out of the question. Suppose, however, that it is discovered. In that case it does not follow by any means that he will betray the forger, and, if the forger himself is captured, it still remains to learn the whereabouts of the dies or plates, which the counterfeiter will certainly not keep on his premises. Considering all these things it is decidedly surprising that the efforts of the secret service are so successful as they are.

HOW COUNTERFEITERS ARE SPOTTED.

In the frames enclosing photographs of counterfeiters at the treasury department are a number of pictures of women counterfeiters. They are rather depraved-looking characters as a rule, and nature does not appear to have bestowed much decorative effort upon their physiognomies, but the law deals very mildly with them. Particularly when they are the wives of forgers, it is considered from the legal point of view, that their assistance in crime has been given "under duress," and the custom is to acquit them. The other frames of counterfeiters' photographs shown are filled with portraits singularly unattractive. Such a squalid aspect is characteristic of them throughout that one would be led to imagine that there is really no money in the business of illicit money making. The traits of countenance shown also bear a remarkably uniform cast. It reminded the writer of an occasion years ago, when he was granted the privilege of looking over the rogues' gallery at police headquarters in New York City. He has expressed some surprise as to how the most skilled detectives could go about in crowds on a festal day and arrest with unerring certainty the criminals whom they had never seen, gathering them in for the protection of honest people. But the chief showed him, by reference to the photographs, how the face of the sneakthief had a peculiar character and expression of its own, that of the burglar another, and so on, so that the police agent was able to distinguish the dishonest member of society offhand without danger of mistake. It was the same way with these counterfeiters; they all bore the Cain mark of their occupation. Funnily enough, the Chinese are great and successful coiners. They have a frame to themselves in the sale-room of the secret service bureau.

EXTENT OF THE "INDUSTRY."

Some notion of the prevalence of counterfeiting will be given by the fact that not long ago, on the occasion of the periodical destruction of such stuff accumulated by the secret service bureau, three-quarters of a million dollars in bogus paper money was burned, and at the same time were rendered useless for further service 610 plates, 561 dies and 1,133 plaster molds, as well as a great quantity of alleged gold, silver, nickle and copper coins, also many presses, milling machines, crucibles, electro-plating batteries and other apparatus.

Happily for the counterfeiters, the future generation does not need a Brockway and a Smith. What they achieved by patience and skill, photographic processes will perform almost without labor and with a perfection beyond criticism. It remains for the United States government to determine what measures it shall adopt for protection against the perfect deception which only mechanical fraud can accomplish.

A Shrewd Solicitor.

An advertising solicitor, one of the brightest members of the hustling fraternity to which he belongs, was met on Chestnut street wearing a smile of great breadth and evidently in excellent humor with himself. "I have just left the head of a big Front street firm," said he, "and I have a fair sized contract bearing the firm's signature tucked in my inside pocket. How do you suppose I got it? The old gentleman undertook to spike my guns before I had my batteries fairly opened on him by agreeing to everything I said in favor of advertising, and enthusiastically attributing to it much more than I would dare to claim for it. He then went on to inform me that his firm had no occasion whatever for advertising, as it was well known from having advertised extensively in its earlier days.

"'So,' said I, 'you think that the advertising which you did in the early days of your business is sufficient to carry you through now?'

"'Undoubtedly I do,' he replied.

"'Well,' said I, 'will you kindly tell me the name of the candidate for vice president on the Republican ticket the election before last?'

"He was struck. He hesitated, stammered a little, and finally replied, 'Well, no, I can't.'

"'Now,' said I, 'do you know of any man who was better advertised at that time?'

"It fetched him."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

She Saw Him.

Father (impressively)—That gentleman is Professor Geminsind, the eminent scientist, whose marvelous discoveries have excited the attention of the entire civilized world, a man whom ever to have seen is an honor.

Daughter—How his pants bag at the knees!—New York Weekly.

A Good Suggestion.

Chollie (sorrowfully)—I want to do something for the world, Mabel.

Mabel (sarcastically)—Why don't you commit suicide?—Life.

TRICKS OF POLICE OFFICERS.

Schemes They Work to Escape from Wearing Uniforms in Public.

While at parades the police captains appear to be proud of their spick and span uniform, set off with brass buttons and gold lace, it is a curious fact that in ordinary circumstances they seem to be unhappy when they are compelled to appear in them in public. Various reasons may be assigned for this repugnance to wearing the livery of the force.

Perhaps in the streets and in public conveyances it attracts attention to the wearer and excites comment, not only in regard to him, but the force in general. A shrewder guess is that if, for instance, a police captain is summoned to police headquarters in a hurry, he may, when his business is transacted there, wish to go elsewhere and not be conspicuous.

At any rate many dodges are resorted to to escape uniform wearing in the streets. One of them is to forward the uniform ahead to the Central office, don it down stairs on arriving, and slip it off when leaving. This succeeds in the main, but patrolmen are often delayed, and as often are untrustworthy messengers, and instances abound of captains arriving just on time and fuming because their garments have not arrived, for the rule against appearing before the superintendent, the commissioners or in the trial room in "mufti" unless specially excused is rigidly enforced.

Another scheme is an ingenious one. The police tailor is near the police headquarters, and the rule was circumvented years ago by having dummy uniforms made handy and of several sizes ready for emergencies, so that a captain summoned in haste could slip into the tailor's a civilian and emerge in all the glory of blue, brass and braid.

Sometimes, however, officers have been caught in a trap by the uniform that would fit them having been donned by another, and have had no alternative but to wait or put on garments too tight or too baggy. Nobody has ever been disciplined for this, but both Mr. Murray and Mr. Byrnes have now and then "reckoned up" a subordinate in ill fitting uniform in a fashion that made him feel unhappy, while the contrast between even a well fitting coat and Broadway promenade trousers has been startling.

Like accommodations are to be found for patrolmen who do duty in citizen's dress, and are required in certain and sudden circumstances to appear in uniform at the Central office. Some of these have been detected and gazed into unhappiness.—New York Times.

A Parrot That Seemed to Talk.

I am inclined to fancy that parrots learn and perhaps understand phrases relating to eating and drinking almost sooner than any others. One of my feathered acquaintances was in the habit of inviting visitors to take refreshment. "Won't you have a cup of tea? Do have a cup of tea," she would say; and sometimes it was really awkward, as almost compelling the mistress to extend her hospitality to visitors for whom such an invitation had not previously been intended.

This bird was also fond of saying "Goodby," and never said it at the wrong time. When the visitor was about to depart he or she would be startled by a voice from a personage hitherto unseen, saying, "Well, goodby! goodby!" If that parrot did not know that this was the proper thing to say, and that this was the proper time for saying it, I am no judge of parrots.

This bird had been taught to count up to six, but she could rarely say the numbers all in order. She often missed one—not the same figure, however; three, four or five were (but only one at a time) her usual omissions. She was always conscious that she had made a mistake, and on "skipping" a figure would give a shrill comical whistle and begin again. Some kind of thought and intention must have passed through her mind during this performance.—Chambers' Journal.

Dr. Burrows, Oculist, Aurist and Optician. Spectacles fitted. Commercial Block.

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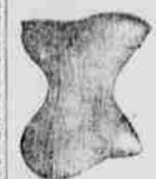

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The Child Sketch Artists, introducing Songs, Clogs, Reels, Jigs and WOODEN SHOE DANCING.

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