

ing that he is really a man of some consequence and great possibilities in an official way, is practically "on the shelf" till by some unforeseen mischance he is called to the head of the nation. Even as President of the Senate he is less spoken of than any member of that body; and there are no other offices over which he exercises control. Of course he can make himself a grand and imposing figure by reason of personal appearance, commanding figure and great and ready parliamentary ability, this having been the case with John C. Breckenridge more than any other man before or since; but even with that, he removes no one and appoints no one—so wherefore the appropriateness of the labor over the grindstone?

WHAT IS MONEY?

"What is money?" is a question quite frequently appearing in the columns of newspapers; and suppose that those who read it here, without proceeding any further at present, try to frame a correct and comprehensive answer to it first and then pronounce it a foolish one. The dictionaries have good definitions in a general way; so they have of such words as "metaphysical," "metempsychosis," "psychological," and so on; but without exhaustive research and an analytical mind, how very few have even a slight comprehension of what such words are meant to stand for and convey upon reading the terse descriptions of them contained in the lexicon?

John Stuart Mill defines money as a "mere contrivance for facilitating exchanges," a definition followed by another British writer, Jevons, in his book, "Money and the Mechanism of Exchange." A contemporary gives the customary newspaper answer, that money is defined usually as a "measure of value;" it is something by the possession or surrender of which we measure the value to us of other articles. It need not be gold or silver. In Homer's time, oxen were money; the Abyssinians used salt; the natives of the west coast of Africa used sea-shell; the North American Indians used shells; the early settlers in Virginia used tobacco; Marco Polo says that the Chinese used paper—not paper redeemable in coin, but paper made valuable by the Great Khan's orders. So, really, money is anything that is generally accepted as of value, which serves to do away with trading "in kind" or barter; it makes no difference what its nature is, so long as it is something which is of value to the people at large.

It would thus appear that what mankind is disposed to recognize as money depends largely if not altogether upon our necessities, circumstances and surroundings. Being gregarious, communicative and diversified as to his habits, occupations and desires, man is by the force of such characteristics disposed to sell, purchase, barter and trade; and anything representative of values, if convenient to handle, if it acquires currency in a given place, becomes money so far as custom can establish anything. In order to prevent confusion and the clashing of interests, civilized people give to their respective

governments the power of declaring what shall and what shall not be money, as well as regulate the amount thereof and its proportions. Our Constitution provides that nothing but gold and silver shall be legal tender in this country, and yet during the war we found it not only convenient but necessary to confer that function upon the government's promises to pay. This was declared unconstitutional, whereupon the Supreme Court was rearranged with the special view of a decision the other way, which we got; and finally the greenbacks came to par without the assistance of the statute law, and very good and handy money it has always been.

Congress is prone to experimenting at times, and it does not always seem to have the best good of the people in view either. Having overridden the Constitution by making something money which was forbidden, it soon after proceeded to undo some of that material which was allowed; and in 1873 the infamous measure which struck down more than half of the country's circulating medium, making it simply so much merchandise whose value was to be regulated by gold, was enacted. There have been subsequent acts designed to curtail the evil inflicted to some extent, but none yet has proposed to do the proper thing of placing the two metals side by side at a fair and legal ratio, making either convertible into the other at the will of the holder and neither regulated as to value by that of the other.

It is claimed in places that we have not much to look forward to in this respect from the incoming administration; but perhaps it would be just as well to let that speak for itself. It can scarcely be said of Mr. Cleveland that he favors or will tolerate the circulation of dollars of any colage that are not receivable for a hundred cents' worth of value; but let the ratio be once established and all silver coined correspond with that ratio, and we believe he will be found just as friendly to it as any of us are. In other words, his opposition to silver is not because it is silver, but because in his judgment silver colage is treating the country very much as coal dealers do the people of Salt Lake, by giving short weight.

TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Chamber of Commerce of this city with one decisive movement upon the railways has accomplished more for the business interests of the Territory at large than perhaps anyone realizes. The roads have been forced to deal with their patrons on terms approaching equity; from schedules of freightage which in each and almost every case represented a large proportion of the value of the goods imported and exported, they have come down to reasonable profits and the people themselves are the gainers, because they, in the end, had to pay it all.

Having accomplished so much, and thus shown its capability in the right direction when once it takes hold of a thing in earnest, why not proceed in that direction so long as there is a call for its labors? We of Salt Lake are still groaning under an excessive rate of freights for an article produced at home, but which by its nature cannot

be transported profitably otherwise than by rail; we refer to the duty on coal which the railroad companies exact from unwilling hands in this city. The rates are more grievous than any with which the Chamber has yet dealt, and are out of all proportion with any other line of business in which such companies are engaged. There is no legitimacy in the profits realized, any more than in any other form of enforced tribute. The roads have us at their mercy, and for years we have been confronted with a realization of what such corporations will do when they get the upper hand. Now let the Chamber of Commerce make its power for good felt once more, by forcing or at least causing our transportation lines to accept of reasonable compensation for services rendered, or inaugurate a move for a competitive line. If a more feasible plan does not present itself, why not call a public meeting for the purpose of taking the initiative steps in the matter? Such a gathering, if called under the auspices of such a body, would mean business from the word go and would acquire impetus and power as it went along. We hope the Chamber will act upon this suggestion; if it can again lead us out of the wilderness, all hands hereabout, as in duty bound, will sound its praises far and wide, besides which, the individuals composing it will share with the rest of us the benefits resulting from such action. This latter consideration is no small matter, as they of course already know.

WILLIAM'S WILL.

The young kaiser of Germany will, it is said, make his pet measure—the military bill—a personal matter. The representatives of South Germany in the Reichstag are understood to be almost solidly opposed to it, and as there will be unquestionably others who are likewise against the project, the emperor can easily foresee a crisis unless heroic measures are adopted. To this end he will appear in the parliament in person and lend a helping hand to get the objectionable bill through. It proposes, among other things, to reduce the term of compulsory military service from three years to two, but there must be something more of which we over here are not fully advised, since there would seem to be no reasonable objection to the period of enforced military service being made less. William is a very self-contained sort of person, always strong-headed and it may be at times wrong-headed; he has set his heart on having the military bill become law, and the chances largely favor the proposition that it will.

By the bye, what has become of that Russian scare on the frontier? Its collapse along with the emperor's determination to reform the national armament, makes things Teutonic wear a sinister aspect.

COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 22.—At Trinity church this evening, Virginia A. Thurman, daughter of Allen W. Thurman and granddaughter of Judge Thurman, was married to T. Kelly of New York.