

many farms fell into disuse because the former tillers of them were dead or crippled. Many reasoners can far more easily connect such causes as these with the result named, than they can the problems of the tariff. But we find these causes of depression largely overcome from 1860 to 1870 by certain other causes which tended to inflation. Farm produce was high and "war prices" prevailed in respect to almost all commodities. Obvious causes other than, or at least in addition to, the tariff, combined to produce "war prices."

Between 1870 and 1880 occurred the most severe and protracted period of "hard times" and business depression, including contraction of values, the country has ever known. This was the decade in which the increase in farm values was so small. Free traders attribute the panic of 1873 to the tariff, but silver men with quite as cogent reasoning, urge that the demonetization of silver did the mischief. Still other financial philosophers assert that the mad spirit of speculation which prevailed in the United States while the war between France and Germany was in progress, and which had to culminate in disaster, caused the great panic.

Did the gentlemen, to whose letter we are referring, ever check a trial balance from a set of mercantile books? If so they found the footings unequal to start with. They found an error which, they fondly hoped, would make the footings even, but alas, it was too small, or perhaps it threw the balance the other way. The same experience, oft repeated, finally resulted in an exact balance. There are many elements entering into this tariff question. One should be placed on the debit and another on the credit side of the account.

That the tariff is an element affecting values in this country, we freely admit; so are the following: The financial legislation of Congress; the prevalence or non-prevalence of speculation; foreign immigration; the condition of Europe in respect to crops and the prospects of peace; the combinations of capital; labor troubles and many other things. For example, there has occurred, in the west, and especially on the Pacific Coast, within the last three years, an enormous increase in real estate values. Had the tariff anything to do with it? Nothing at all, unless as a remote element of much nearer and more powerful causes.

Referring again to the gentleman's figures: The proposition that the labor which produces \$242 worth of sugar is paid but \$4, we pronounced preposterous, yet the gentlemen urge it again, though this time in a somewhat different light. It now appears that the employees in the refinery get \$4 in wages for each \$242 worth of sugar turned out; but the cost of the crude sugar is not given; hence we are left in the dark as to the amount paid in wages to plantation employees, for transportation, etc., elements vital to the question, without which the figures given are worthless. Unless the cost of the crude sugar is known, the refiner's profits remain unknown. Hence also does the amount of injustice done by him to his employees.

It has not been our aim to either favor or oppose free trade, but to show that where a question embraces several vital elements, all must be considered together, or an erroneous result will be reached.

TOO TRANSPARENT.

THERE are many money-making devices. Among the most transparent of them is the interesting "brunette" and "blonde" scheme. Here is something in that line, just come to hand by mail:

INDIANA, March 27, 1890.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Will you please insert my little advertisement in your paper? Am very anxious to secure a nice home in your "far west."

Am a brunette 5 feet high and weigh nearly 100 lbs.

Hoping that I may succeed, I remain your little friend,

ESSIE GABRIEL.

Following is "my little advertisement":

Wanted—By an intelligent orphan girl of sixteen, a home in some childless family in the "far west," where she could be a dutiful daughter, have a mother's love and attend school regularly. Education and parentage good. Reference given.

Address: Miss E. Gabriel, Indiana.

The correspondent writes a good hand, but does not seem to be aware of the fact that the "far west" has but few domestic anomalies in the shape of childless families. Such a conjugal phenomenon is hardly entitled to be designated as a family, but where the condition does exist the parties prefer, as a rule, that augmentations to the circle shall come in smaller quantities than one hundred pounds of "brunette." Ten pounds of any complexion meets with more general favor, even if these smaller additions don't write grammatically and in a good hand.

We suspect that this intelligent

sixteen-year-old brunette, five feet high and weighing a hundred pounds, is about thirty years of age, two yards tall raw-boned, wears red mutton-chop whiskers, and has cold slate-colored eyes.

The Denver papers state that a young man of that city replied to a "blonde" advertisement which came from Chicago. The result of the correspondence was that he responded to a request for passage money, amounting to \$30. An additional \$5 was asked for. A "still hunt" was instituted and the beautiful blonde was discovered to consist of two masculine heavy villains.

A request for a situation which will envelop the applicant in maternal love, enable her to regularly attend school and be supported by the sweat of someone else's brow does not involve as much pathos as expense, especially when the only equivalent offered in return is the privilege of having the genial presence of the applicant about the place, to cast a luminous radiance around the house, as it were.

In case some foolish or designing person might undertake to communicate with "Essie," we have omitted the name of the town in Indiana which has the honor of possessing her as a fragment of its population.

NOT A "MORMON."

THE following appeared in the *Anaconda Standard* in the form of a special from Butte, dated March 28th:

"A letter was received in this city today from J. B. Carrington, of Brigham City, Utah, stating that his boy had been kidnapped or had run away; that he understood the boy was in Butte and in the hands of relatives named Griehl. In this letter Carrington also professed that the boy was abducted last summer, that he had been unable to get him back and requested the assistance of the Butte police in ascertaining the whereabouts of the boy. A *Standard* reporter made inquiries into the matter today. The firm of J. S. Graehl & Co. does an extensive produce business. Mr. Graehl was seen by a reporter and said in reference to this charge:

"Mr. Carrington knows just as well where the boy is as we do. The lad is about 14 years old, and will have nothing to do with his father. He takes the name of Graehl and always has. His father has not treated him right, and the lad also bears a grudge on account of his mother's treatment by Carrington. It seems Carrington is a Mormon, and under the new law in Utah the boy's mother cannot be called Carrington's legal wife. So the boy's grandfather last summer took charge of him when he ran away from his father. The boy would not have anything to do with his father, and once wanted to borrow my pistol to shoot him. The boy was put on a