John Leeds Kerr.

EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown
RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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THE SACRIFICE.

From Bulwer's last work.

[Muza is the lover of Leila—Almamen her father; Muza, leaving Grenada after its capitulation, encounters Almamen, who promises to guide him to Leila, but the Moore is unaware of the relation of the astrologer to his beloved.]

But that scene and that sound so calculated to soothe and harmonize the thoughts, seemed to arouse Almamen into agony and passion. He smote his breast with his clenched hand; and shrieking, rather than exclaiming, 'God of my fathers, have I come too late?' buried his spurs to the rowels in the sides of his panting steed. Along the sward, through the fragrant shrubs, a thwart the pebbly and shallow torrent up the ascent to the convent sped the Israelite. Muza, wondering and half reluctant, followed at a little distance. Clearer and nearer came the voices of the choir; broader and redder glowed the tapers from the Gothic casements; the porch of the convent chapel was reached; the Hebrew sprang from his horse. A small group of the peasants dependent on the convent loitered reverently round the threshold: pushing through them as one frantic Almamen entered the chapel and disappeared.

A minute elapsed. Muza was at the door; but the Moore paused irresolutely ere he dismounted. 'What is the ceremony?' he asked of the peasants.

'A nun is about to take the vows,' answered one of them.

A cry of alarm of indignation, of terror, was heard within. Muza no longer delayed; he gave his steed to the bystander, pushed aside the heavy curtain that screened the threshhold, and was within the chapel.

By the alter gathered a confused and disordered group, the sisterhood with their abbess. Round the consecrated rail flocked the spectators breathless and amazed. Conspicuous above the rest, on the elevation of the holy place stood Almamen, with his drawn dagger in his right hand, his left arm clasped around the form of a novice, whose dress, not yet replaced by the surge, bespoke her the sisted fated to the veil! and on the opposite side of that sister, one hand on her shoulder, the other rearing on high the sacred crucifix, stood a stern, calm commanding from, in the white robes of the Dominian order; it was Thomas de Torquemada.

'Avaunt Abaddon!' were the first words which reached Muza's ear, as he stood unnoticed in the middle of the aisle, 'here thy sorcery and the arts cannot avail thee. Release the devoted one of God!'

'She is mine! she is my daughter. I claim her from the as a father, in the name of the great Sire of Man!'

'Seize the sorcerer! seize him! exclaimed the inquisitor, as, with a sudden movement, Almamen cleared his way through the scattered and dismayed group, and stood with his daughter in his arms, on the first step of the consecrated platform.

But not a foot stirred, not a hand was raised. The epithet bestowed on the intruder had only breathed a supernatural terror into the audience; and they would have sooner rushed upon a tiger in his lair, than on the lifted dagger and savage aspect of that grim stranger.

'Oh, my father!' then said a low and faltering voice that started Muza as a voice from the grave, 'wrestle not against the decrees of Heaven. Thy daughter is not compelled to her solemn choice.—Humbly but devotedly, a convert to the Christian creed, her only wish on earth is to take the consecrated and eternal vow.

'Ha!' groaned the Hebrew, suddenly relaxing his hold as his daughter fell on her knees before him, then have I indeed been told, as I have foreseen, the worst. The veil is rent—the spirit hath left the temple: Thy beauty is desecrated; thy form is but unhallowed clay. 'Dog!' he cried more fiercely, glaring round upon the unmoved face of the inquisitor, this is thy work; but thou shalt not triumph. Here by thine own shrine, I spit at and defy the, as once before, amid the tortures of thy inhuman court. Thus—thus—Almamen the Jew delivers the last of his house from the curse of Galilee!'

'Hold, murderer!' cried a voice of thunder; and an armed man burst through the crowd and stood upon the platform. It was too late; thrice the blade of the Hebrew had passed through that innocent breast, thrice was it reddened with that virgin blood. Leila fell in the arms of her lover; her dim eyes rested upon his countenance as it shone upon her beneath his lifted visor; a faint and tender smile played upon her lips; Leila was no more.

One hasty glance Almamen cast upon his victim, and then, with a wild laugh that woke every echo in the dreary aisles, he leaped from the place. Brandishing his bloody weapon above his head, he dashed through the coward crowd; and, ere even the startled Dominican found a voice, the tramp of his headlong steed rang upon the air; and instant, and all was silent.

But over that murdered girl leaned the Moor, as yet incredulous of her death; her head, still-unshorn of its purple tresses, pillowed on his lap, her icy hand clasped in his and her blood weltering fast over his armor. None disturbed him: for habited as the knights of Christendom, none suspected his faith: and all, even the Dominican, felt a thrill of sympathy at his distress. With the quickness of comprehension common to those climes, they understood at once that it was a lover who sustained that beauty clay. How he came thither, with what object, what hope, their thoughts were too much locked up in pity to conjecture. There, voiceless and motionless, bent the Moor; until one of the monks approached and felt the pulse to ascertain if life was indeed utterly gone.

The Moor at first waved him haughtily away but when he divined the monk's purpose, suffered him in silence to take the beloved hand. He fixed on him his dark and imploring eyes; and when the father dropped the hand, and gently shaking his head, turned away, a deep and agonizing groan was all that the audience heard from that heart which the last iron of fate had entered. Passionately he kissed the brow and cheeks, the lips of the hushed and angel face, and rose from the spot.

'What dost thou here? and what knowest thou of yon murderous enemy of God and man?' asked the Dominican approaching.

Muza made no reply as he stalked slowly through the chappel. The audience was touched to sudden tears. 'Forbear!' said they, almost with one accord, to the harsh inquisitor; 'he hath no voice to answer thee.'

And thus, amid the oppressive grief and sympathy of the Christian throng, the unknown Paynim reached the door, mounted his steed, and, as he turned once more, and cast a hurried glance upon the fatal pile, the bystanders saw the large tears rolling down his swarthy cheeks.

Slowly that coal-black charger wound down the hillock, crossed the quiet and lovely garden and vanished amid the forest. And never was known to Moor or Christian, the future fate of the hero of Grenada. Whether he reached in safety the shores of his ancestral Africa, and carved out new fortunes and a new name; or whether death, by disease or strife, terminated obscurely his glorious & brief career, mystery, deep & unpenetrated, even by the fancies of the thousand bards who have consecrated his deeds wraps in everlasting shadow the destinies of Muza Ben Abil Gazan, from that hour when the setting sun threw its parting ray over his stately form, and his ebon barb disappearing amid the breathless shadows of the forest.

A Chair Full, and a well Filled Chair.—When Joseph Lancaster was in Washington, Congress being in Session, he obtained leave of the Speaker (the Hon. Henry Clay,) to deliver a lecture on his system of instruction, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, one morning after the House had adjourned for the day. A remark made by Mr. Clay when he saw Mr. Lancaster in the Speaker's Chair, and the distinguished teacher's answer, occasioned the following—

RETORT COURTEOUS.

When slim Speaker Clay, looking up at his Chair,
Saw that very fat man Joseph Lancaster there,
He said,—while with pleasure the pun through him thrill'd,
"Sir, I never before saw the Chair so well fill'd."
The Teacher,—well pleased,—to reply was not slow—
For witty, though serious, was dignified JOE:
He mildly remark'd in the same pleasant way—
"He who filled this Chair best was no better than CLAY.

Mail Robberies—Arrests.—We learn from the Cincinnati Republican that the Great Northern mail, from Columbus to Toledo, was robbed, it is supposed, near Lyme, Huron county, Ohio. Both the mail-bags were cut open. The amount of loss sustained has not yet been ascertained. Upon the arrival of the mail at Lyme on the 1st inst., the postmaster of that office (Mr. Lyman Strong,) with great promptitude, instituted an investigation, and strong suspicions resting upon a man named Houck, who was a passenger in the stage, he forthwith went in pursuit of him. He overtook and arrested him at Granville, and brought him to Columbus on the morning of the 4th inst., where he was fully committed for trial.

On the 26th ult., the post-master of Kingsville, Ashtabula county Ohio, (Stephen Munger,) and his son, Harrison Munger, were arrested by Mr. *James Brown*, one of the Agents of the Post-office Department, on suspicion of robbing from the mail.—They were committed, and will receive their trial at the next session of the U. S. Court, to be held in Columbus in May next.

It is stated that ten persons including those mentioned above, have been arrested in Ohio alone, within the last two months, for depredations on the mails.

THE SUB-TREASURY.

The following extract from Mr. Naylor's speech, delivered at the Extra Session of Congress, when the subject of the Sub-Treasury System was under consideration, is worthy of the attentive perusal of every citizen of the United States:—

What next? The next great measure that we have recommended to us in the last great experiment of those in power, the "Sub-Treasury System." This project has not yet received the sanction of this House and I pray Heaven that it never may. It is now before us for consideration. I purpose in conclusion to make a few hasty remarks upon it. I am opposed to this measure. Although not yet approved by Congress, it is now in operation. We see its working. We eat of its fruits, and, for myself they are distasteful to me. I loathe them. I am for cutting down the tree that produced them.

Sir, this scheme proposes to place in the hands of individuals who are dependent alone on the will of the President for their continuance in office, *all*, yes *all the countless millions* of the money of this government for disbursement & safe keeping. These men are to receive it, hold it, use it, when and as they please, with no earthly barrier between it and the temptation to appropriate it to their own uses, which the personal custody of such immense treasures must offer, than the feeble restraint of poor, weak, fallible human nature, and the fear of consequences which must result from an ultimate detection.

How many receivers and holders of the public money, or, in other words, how many "Sub-Treasurers" there will be scattered throughout the whole extent of this wide spread country, no man can at present determine. In France, where a similar system prevails, there are *one hundred thousand!*—Here, I have no doubt, in a short time, the number would even exceed that. These men are to hold and absolutely possess the whole treasures of the nation. Some of them, particularly in our large cities, will have millions of dollars in their hands at a time. One uninterrupted golden current will be continually pouring in upon them. What a temptation (even aside from party political influences,) is thus offered to use a portion of this money occasionally or continually, as need or circumstances may require. Sir, the temptation will be irresistible.

Surrounded by needy or pressing friends in distress, whose families and fortunes they may think will be comforted or repaired by a timely loan: in the very midst of the exciting whirl of speculation, with fortune's dazzling visions urging them on to use the treasures confided to their keeping, and embark in schemes promising to result in the enjoyment of immense possessions, and with the full certainty that a temporary use of even large amounts, cannot be discovered; taking into consideration with these circumstances the fact that there will be one hundred thousand of these men—I say they will in all cases inevitably misappropriate the money Large amounts of it must be lost. The treasures of the country will be plundered. Under such a system; there is no safety for the public funds.

But, sir, this is not the only evil I see in this measure. The loss of the public monies will be nothing compared to the moral and political evils that must flow from it. "Lead us not into temptation," was the sublime prayer to our God. Our rulers disregarding this divine lesson, seem determined to surround their public officers with a consuming fire of temptation, from which there is to be no hope of escape. Their consciences are to be seared, and they are to go abroad corrupted and corrupting, until the whole body politic becomes one offensive mass of putridity.—smelling to heaven, and tainting the very atmosphere of freedom. This may be strong language!—But I see the evil strongly. I feel it strongly.

The editor of the Globe having connected Mr. Legare's name with their gross charge against Mr. Clay, he sent the following card to the editors. Mr. L has a proper feeling on the subject—

To the Editor of the Globe—

Mr. Legare has read with equal astonishment and pain, a paragraph in the Globe of Saturday last, in which, what he cannot but consider as a most unauthorized and unwarrantable, use has been made of his name in connection with a charge upon a distinguished Senator.

Being quite sure that he has said nothing upon the subject alluded to, and having no desire whatever to figure, either as a party or witness, in a newspaper report of the kind, Mr. L. would be particularly obliged to the Editor of the Globe to omit his name in any future remarks he may see fit to make in relation to that matter, and to insert this card in his next number.

Washington, Feb. 12, 1838.

CONGRESS.

SPEECH OF MR. WEBSTER,

(OF MASSACHUSETTS)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 1838,

ON THE SUB TREASURY BILL.

"Let the Government attend to its own business, and let the People attend to theirs."

"Let the Government take care that it secures a sound currency for its own use, and let it leave all the rest to the States and to the People."

These ominous sentences, Mr. President, have been ringing in my ears ever since they were uttered yesterday by the member from New York. Let the Government take care of itself, and let the People take care of themselves. This is the whole principle and policy of the Administration, at the present most critical moment, and on this great and all-absorbing question of the currency.

Sir, this is an ill boding announcement. It has nothing of consolation, of solace, or of hope in it.

It will carry through all the classes of commerce and business nothing but more discouragement and deeper fears. And yet it is but repetition. It is only a renewed exhibition of the same spirit which was breathed by the Message and the bill of the last session, of which this bill is also full, and which has pervaded all the recommendations and all the measures of Government since May. Yet I confess that I am not, even yet, so familiar with it, so accustomed to hear such sentiments avowed, as that they cease to astonish me. I am either groping in thick and palpable darkness myself, in regard to the true objects of the Constitution, and the duties of Congress under it, or else these principles of public policy, thus declared, are at war with our most positive and urgent obligations.

The honorable member made other observations indicative of the same general tone of political feeling. Among his chosen topics of commendation of the bill before us, a prominent one was to shelter the Administration from that shower of imputations, as he expressed the idea, which would always beat upon it as it beats now, when disasters should happen to the currency. Indeed! And why should the Administration, now or ever, be sheltered from that shower? Is not currency a subject over which the power and duty of Government extend? Is not Government justly responsible for its condition? Is it not, of necessity, wholly and entirely under the control and regulation of political power? Is it not a matter, in regard to which, the People cannot, by any possibility, protect themselves, any more than they can, by their own individual efforts, supersede the necessity of the exercise by Government of any other general power? What can the People do for themselves, to improve the currency? Sir, the Government is justly answerable for the disasters of the currency, saving always those accidents which cannot at all times be foreseen or provided against. It is at least answerable for its own neglect, if it shall be guilty of it, in not exercising all its constitutional authority for the correction and restoration of the currency. Why does it, how can it, shrink from this responsibility? Why does it seek not the laurels of victory, not the reputation, even of manly contest, but the poor honors of studied and eager escape? Sir, it never can escape. The common sense of all men pronounces that the Government is, and ought to be, and must be, answerable for the regulation of the currency of the country; that it ought to and must abide, the peltings of the storm of imputation, so long as it turns its back upon this momentous question, and seeks to shelter itself in the safes and the vaults, the cells and the caverns, of a sub Treasury system.

But of all Governments that ever existed, the present Administration has least excuse for withdrawing its care from the currency, or shrinking from its just responsibility in regard to it.

Its predecessor, in whose footsteps it professes to tread, has interfered, fatally interfered, with that subject. That interference was, and has been, the productive cause of our disasters. Did the Administration disclaim power over the currency in 1833, when it removed the deposites? And what meant all its subsequent transactions, all its professions, and all its efforts, for that better currency which it promised, if, in truth, it did not hold itself responsible to the People of the United States for a good currency? From the very first year of the late Administration to the last, there was hardly a session if there was a single session in which the duty of Government was not acknowledged, promises of high improvement put forth, or loud claims of merit asserted, for benefits already conferred. It professed to erect the great temple of its glory on the improvements of the currency.

And, sir, the better currency, which has been so long promised, was not a currency for the Government, but a currency for the People. It was not for the use of revenue merely, but for the use of the whole commerce, trade, and business of the nation. And now, when the whole industry, business, and labor of the country, is harrassed and distressed by the evil brought upon us by its own interference, Government talks with all possible coolness of the great advantage it will be to adopt a system which shall shield itself from a thick-falling shower of imputations. It disclaims, it renounces, it abandons its duties, and then seeks an inglorious shelter in its professed want of power to relieve the People.

We demand the better currency; we insist on the fulfilment of the high and and flattering promises; and surely there never was a Government on the face of the earth that could, with less propriety, resist the demand; yet, we see it seek refuge in a bold, cold, and heartless denial of the competency of its own constitutional powers. It falls back from its own undertakings, and flatly contradicts its own professions. In my opinion, it can find no refuge, where the public voice will not reach it. There can be no shelter, while these times last, into which Government can retreat, where it can hide, and screen itself from the loud voice of the country, calling upon it to come forth to fulfil its promises, or at least, to say that these promises are all broken, to perform its duties. The evils of a disordered currency are evils which do not naturally correct or cure themselves. Nor does chance, or good luck, often relieve that community which is suffering under them. They require political remedy; they require provision to be made by Government; they demand the skilful hand of experienced statesmen. Until some just remedy be applied, they are likely to continue, with more or less of aggravation, and no man can tell when or how they will end. It is vain therefore, quite vain, for Government to hope that it may retreat from this great duty, shield itself under a system, no way agreeing either with its powers or its obligations, and thus escape reproaches, by attempting to escape responsibility.

Mr. President, there is fault and failure somewhere. Either the Constitution has failed, or its administration fails. The great end of a uniform and satisfactory regulation of commerce is not answered, because the national currency, an indispensable instrument of that commerce, is not preserved in a sound and uniform state.

Is the fault in the Constitution itself? Those who affirm that it is, must show how it was, if that be so, that other Administrations, in other times, have been able to give the People abundant satisfaction in relation to the currency. I suppose it will be said, in answer to this, that the Constitution has been violated; that it was originally misconstrued; that those who made it did not understand it; and that the sage and more enlightened politicians of our times see deeper and judge more justly of the Constitution than Washington and Madison. Certain it is, that they have more respect for their own sagacity than for all the wisdom of others, and all the experience of the country; or else they find themselves, by their party politics and party commitments, cut off from all ability of administering the Constitution according to former successful practice.

Mr. President, when I contemplate the condition of the country; when I behold this utter breaking down of the currency, this wide spread evil among all the industrious classes, this acknowledged inability of Government to pay its debts legally, this prostration of commerce and manufactures, this shocking derangement of internal exchange, and the general crash of credit and confidence; and when I see that three hundred representatives of the People are here assembled, to consult on the public exigency; and that repudiating the wisdom of our predecessors, and rejecting all the lights of our own experience, nothing is proposed, for our adoption, to meet an emergency of this character, but the bill before us, I confess, sir, the whole seems to me some strange illusion. I can hardly persuade myself that we are all in our waking senses. It appears like a dream, like some phantasy of the night, that the opening light of the morning usually dispels.

There is so little of apparent relation of means to ends; the measure before us has so little to promise for the relief of existing evils; it is so alien, so outlandish, so abstracted, so remote from the causes which press down all the great public interest, that I really find it difficult to regard as real what is thus around me.

Sir, some of us are strangely in error. The difference between us is so wide, the views which we take of public affairs so opposite, our opinions, both of the causes of present evils and their appropriate remedies, so totally unlike, that one side or the other must be under some strange delusion. Darkness, thick darkness, hangs either over the supporters of this measure or over its opponents. Time, and the public judgment, I trust, will sooner or later disperse these mists, and men and measures will be seen in their true character. I think, indeed, that I see already some lifting up of the fog.

The honorable member from New York has said that we have now already existing a mode of conducting the fiscal affairs of the country, substantially such as that will be which this bill will establish. We may judge, therefore, he says, of the future by the present. A Sub Treasury system, in fact, he contends, is now in operation, and he hopes the country sees so much good in it as to be willing to make it permanent and perpetual.

The present system, he insists, must at least be admitted not to have obstructed or impeded the beneficial action of the immense resources of the country. Sir, this seems to me a most extraordinary declaration. The operation and energy of the resources of the country not obstructed? The business of the community not impeded? Why, sir, this can only be true upon the supposition that the present evils are no way attributable to the policy of Government, that they all spring from some extraneous and independent cause. If the honorable member means that the disasters which have fallen upon us arise from causes which Government cannot control, such as overtrading or speculation, and that Government is answerable for nothing, I can understand him, though I do not at all concur with him. But that the resources of the country are not now in a state of great depression and stagnation is what I had supposed none would assert. Sir, what are the resources of the country? The first of all doubtless, is labor. Does this meet no impediment? Does labor find itself rewarded, as heretofore, by high prices, paid in good money? The whole mass of industry employed in commerce and manufactures, does it meet with no obstruction, or hindrance, or discouragement? And commerce and manufactures, in the aggregate, embracing capital as well as labor, are they too in a high career of success? Is nothing of impediment or obstruction found connected with their present condition?

Again, sir; among our American resources, from the very first origin of this Government, credit and confidence have held a high and foremost rank. We owe more to credit, and to commercial confidence, than any nation which ever existed; and ten times more than any nation, except England. Credit and confidence have been the life of our system, and powerfully productive causes of all our prosperity. They have covered the seas with our commerce, replenished the Treasury, paid off the national debt, excited and stimulated the manufacturing industry, encouraged labor to put forth the whole strength of its sinews, felled the forests, and multiplied our numbers, and augmented the national wealth, so far beyond all example, as to leave us a phenomenon for older nations to look at with wonder. And this credit, and this confidence, are they now no way obstructed or impeded? Are they now acting with their usual efficiency, and their usual success, on the concerns of society?

The honorable member refers to the exchanges. No doubt, sir, the rate of foreign exchange has nothing in it alarming. Nor has it had, if our domestic concerns had been in a proper condition. But that the internal exchanges are in a healthful condition, as the honorable member alleges, is what I can by no means admit. I look upon the derangement of the internal exchanges as the precise form in which existing evils most manifestly exhibit themselves. Why, sir, look at the rates between large cities in the neighborhood of each other. Exchange between Boston and New York, and also between Philadelphia and New York, is 1½ to 2 per cent.—This could never happen but from a deranged currency; and can this be called a healthful state of domestic exchange?

I understand that the cotton crop has done much towards equalizing exchange between New Orleans and New York; and yet I have seen, not many days since, that in other places of the South, I believe Mobile, exchange on New York was at a premium of 5 to 10 per cent.

The manufacturers of the North can say how they have found, and how they now find, the facilities of exchange. I do not mean exclusively, or principally, the large manufacturers of cotton and woollen fabrics; but the smaller manufacturers, men who, while they employ many others, still bestow their own labor on their own capital; the shop manufacturers, such manufacturers as abound in New Jersey, Connecticut, and other parts of the North. I would ask the gentlemen from these States how these neighbors of theirs find exchanges, and the means of remittance, between them and their correspondents and purchasers in the South. The carriage makers, the furniture makers, the hatters, the dealers in leather, in all its branches, the dealers in domestic hardware; I should like to hear the results of the experience of all these persons, on the state of the internal exchanges, as well as the general question whether the industry of the country has encountered any obstacle in the present state of the currency.

Mr. President, the honorable member from New York stated correctly, that this bill has two leading objects.

The first is a separation of the revenue, and the funds of Government, from all connection with the concerns of individuals, and of corporations; and especially a separation of these funds from all connection with any banks.

The second is, a gradual change, in our system of currency, to be carried on till we can accomplish the object of an exclusive specie or metalic circulation, at least in all payments to Government, and all disbursements by the Government.

Now, sir, I am against both these propositions, ends as well as means.

I am against this separation of Government and People, as unnatural, selfish, and an abandonment of the most important political duties.

I am for having but one currency, and that a good one, both for the people and the Government.

I am opposed to the doctrines of the Message of September, and to every thing which grows out of these doctrines. I feel as if I were on some other sphere, as if I were not at home, as if this could not be America, when I see schemes of public policy proposed, having for their object the convenience of Government only, and leaving the People to shift for themselves, in a matter which naturally and necessarily belongs, and in every other country is admitted to belong, to the solemn obligations and the undoubted power of Government. Is it America, where the Government, and men in the Government, are to be better off than the People? Is it America, where Government is to shut its eyes and its ears to public complaint, and to take care only of itself? Is it America, Mr. President, is it your country and my country, in which, at a time of great public distress, when all eyes are turned to Congress, and when most men feel that substantial and practical relief can come only from Congress, that Congress, nevertheless, has nothing on earth to propose but bolts and bars, safes and vaults, cells and hiding places, for the better security of its own moneys and nothing on earth, not a beneficent law, not even a kind word, for the People themselves? Is it our country, in which the interest of Government has reached such an ascendency over the interest of the People, in the estimate of the representatives of the people? Has this sir, come to be the state of thing, in the old thirteen, with the new thirteen added to them? For one, I confess I know not what is American, in policy, in public interest, or in public feeling, if these measures be deemed American.

The first general aspect, or feature of the bill, the character written broadly on its front, is this abandonment of all concern for the general currency of the country. This is enough for me. It secures my opposition to the bill in all stages. Sir, this bill ought to have had a preamble. It ought to have been introduced by a recital, setting forth, that whereas the currency of the country has become totally deranged; and whereas, it has heretofore been thought the bounden duty of this Government to take proper care of that great branch of the national interest; and whereas, that opinion is erroneous, obsolete, and heretical; and whereas according to the true reading of the Constitution, the great duty of this Government, and its exclusive duty, so far as currency is concerned, is to take care of itself; and whereas, if Government can but secure a sound currency for itself, the People may very well be left to such a currency as the States, or the banks, or their own good fortune, or bad fortune, may give them; therefore be it enacted, &c. &c. &c.

The very first provision of the bill is in keeping with its general objects and general character. It abandons all the sentiments of civilized mankind on the subject of credit and confidence, and carries us back to the dark ages. The first that we hear is of safes and vaults, and cells, and cloisters. From an intellectual it goes back to a physical age. From commerce and credit, it returns to hoarding and hiding; from confidence and trust, it retreats to bolts and bars, to locks with double keys and to pains and penalties for touching hidden treasure. It is a law for the times of the feudal system, or a law for the banditti governors of the piratical States of Barbary—It is a measure fit for times when there is no security in the law, no value in our coin, no

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