

With Our Readers

I.—Correspondence

The Stock of Gold

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

I wish you would show what the statistics now show as to the balance of gold left for monetary uses. Your reference to Soetbeer only comes to 1885. Are there any later statistics? If so, how late? and could you cite them? If the gold single standard is wrong, there needs to be work done against it, or our Nation will settle down to that. Works that are authority on these questions would now sell. How can I get the Soetbeer-Taussig work? Where is it for sale, and at what price? And also Giffen?

AMOS STECKEL.

Soetbeer's latest conclusions, as reported in the proceedings of the International Monetary Conference last year, were as follows:

One could not demonstrate by figures the incorrectness of the hypothesis that in recent years the industrial use of gold, together with the needs of Oriental countries and for private hoards, had materially arrested the increase of monetary stock and had very probably absorbed the annual production of the metal; but proofs are equally lacking to support the contrary hypothesis.

Put into English, this means that Soetbeer had, in the last few years, become uncertain whether the non-monetary uses of gold did not absorb the entire product of the mines. The Soetbeer-Taussig work was published in the United States consular reports for 1887, and can probably be had free if at all. Mr Giffen's book is published by George Bell & Son, New York and London.—THE EDITORS.

The Unit of Value

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

In your editorial comments upon Mr. Walker's defense of the gold standard are some propositions of which I cannot see the proof. You say, "The same amount of money ought always to represent the same amount of products." Why? The value of all products varies as the cost of producing them varies. As we find means of substituting the energies of nature—wind-power, water-power, steam-power—for human labor in the production of a given commodity, the cost of that commodity is diminished, and its value in the markets sooner or later falls. If the cost of producing the gold in a gold dollar increases, while the cost of producing a ton of steel or a bushel of wheat decreases, I see no reason why a dollar should always purchase the same amount of steel or wheat.

W. H. A.

By "the same amount of products" was meant the same amount of property, real or personal. If the productiveness of all forms of labor should increase 100-fold, the owners of all existing property, except credits, would simply retain their present possessions. There is no reason why they should pay any larger proportion of them to the holders of credits. The wealth of the latter ought not to be increased by law.—THE EDITORS.

Reading-Matter Wanted

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

Allow me to say to numerous inquiries in response to my request in *The Outlook* of July 1, that any kind of healthy literature will be appreciated. Quite a lot of books and periodicals have been received from various points, ranging from Massachusetts to California. For a time I tried to answer each kind inquiry, but time forbids that I shall acknowledge each contribution and inquiry separately. For general information, I will say again that all shipments to Minco, Indian Territory, via Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway, cannot go wrong. Cloud Chief is the county-seat of Washita County, Oklahoma, seventy miles west of above-named point. The matter of shipping expenses is becoming quite a burden to me, and I would

appreciate all help in this line that contributors may feel able to give. Don't hesitate to ship on this account, however, as some way will be provided from my scanty income to meet such expense. I hope to be able to do good work with the matter placed at my disposal, and have in view the organization of a library association for the preservation, care, and distribution of literature sent us. This will be called the Hardy Library Association, in honor of Mrs. M. E. Hardy, of Unionville, Ohio, who contributed the nucleus of what promises to be (for this section) a collection of no mean proportions. Address me simply,

(Dr.) J. D. BALLARD,
Cloud Chief, O. T.

A Good Idea

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

May I not appeal through the columns of your paper for aid—either in money, books, or periodicals—in the establishment of a reading-room, with classes of various kinds, in a hamlet of fifteen hundred workers in a large iron and steel mill, where there is now absolutely no other place of resort than the omnipresent saloon?

I wish to establish something similar to Dr. Greer's St. Bartholomew's House, and the people here are but little disposed to give very liberally for a scheme so unheard of in this manufacturing section.

I should be pleased to correspond with any who are interested in work of this kind.

(Rev.) W. H. BURBANK.

Bellaire, O.

II.—Notes and Queries

1. Do the thinkers of the New Orthodox school believe in a literal day of judgment? I have an impression that they interpret the phrase as a figurative reference to a spiritual experience of the individual soul. If so, what of Matt. xi., 22, 24, and many similar utterances of Jesus? 2. Do they believe in "the end of the world"? 3. And in the second advent of Christ?

PILGRIM.

1. Opinions vary, and we cannot answer for all the "thinkers" of the "school" referred to. Many, however, have discarded the idea of a "general judgment" of all mankind on a single "day," and regard judgment as a perpetual divine process, whose crises, or days, are continually coming both on individuals and communities—each individual coming to such a day of judgment at his death. The text you refer to they explain on the above principle. 2. Their idea of the "end of the world" is given by the marginal reading of that phrase in the Revised Version, as "the consummation of the age;" that is, the ripening time of the judgment process in any age or period of the world. Compare Rev. xiv., 15-19. Such a consummation, or end, was the judgment which fell upon Judaism in the overthrow of Jerusalem. 3. Their idea is that it is spiritual, not spectacular—a progressive coming in spiritual power till the kingdoms of the world have become the kingdom of Christ.

I am on a committee preparing a course of study on the Old Testament for a class of grown-up students. We constantly have recommended to us such books as "The Bible for Learners" and the works of Kuenen and Knappert. I am not perfectly satisfied with these. I should wish for something to put on our list which would not run in quite so narrow a groove of thought. Some of the assumptions in "The Bible for Learners" seem hasty and insufficiently supported.

L. F. C.

The works you name represent an extreme type of thought. Somewhat more conservative are Professor Robertson Smith's volumes on "The Old Testament in the Jewish Church" and "The Prophets of Israel." Professor C. H. Toy's "Old Testament Primer," quite as extreme as Kuenen, contains valuable references to everything worth reading on the subject. Instead, however, of trying to cover so much ground, you might do well to make more detailed study of a limited portion of the field, as in Professor G. A. Smith's "Book of Isaiah," or Professor Briggs's "Messianic Prophecy."

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W.

We cannot speak from personal knowledge of the method referred to. Systematic study of the Bible may be on various lines, according as it deals with the Book as a whole, or with its component books separately, or with the various subjects treated of. In the first mentioned of these three, which is probably the one you are following, there is nothing better than the Revised Version itself, coupled with a parallel reference edition of the Authorized Version, together with Smith's "Bible Dictionary."

1. In what magazines or journals did Mr. Richard Harding Davis's *Van Bibber Stories* first appear? 2. Also state any facts about W. E. Henley, the poet, that are of interest.

C. C. G.

1. In "Harper's Magazine," we believe. 2. Mr. Henley is one of the younger English poets and critics. His writings are of too recent a date to have secured him a place in the biographical dictionaries. He has written for several of the best English reviews and literary weeklies. Among his books are, "Views and Reviews," "Song of the Sword," "Lyrica Heroica," and "Three Plays." In the last-named book he wrote in collaboration with Robert Louis Stevenson.

Where can I find a complete bibliography of foreign missions? What is the best library on missions, and by whom is it published?

X.

Both needs you will probably find answered by a recent *Cyclopædia of Missions*, published in two volumes by Funk & Wagnalls, New York. For any want in this direction, write to the A. B. C. F. M., 121 Bible House, New York.

Praise is Good

For any medicine you hear about, but to be made well by its use is still better. My only regret is that I did not take Hood's Sarsaparilla earlier. I have for many years suffered with an irritable itching all over my body, and my left leg swelled and became so sore I had to give up work. Hood's Sarsaparilla gave me immediate relief when I began to take it, and I am confident it has driven all disease out of my

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Recreation Department

The Outlook

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VIA



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