## Correspondence

## Boston Bimetallism ${ }^{\text { }}$

To the Editors of The Outlook:
In a paragraph favorably noticing the organization recently formed in Boston for the promotion of international bimetallism, The Outlook for February 17 expresses the view that "were it an immediate question whether the mints of three or four great nations should be open to the free coinage of fifty cents' worth of bullion into legal-tender dollars, they [some members of the organization] would probably shrink from it and accept the opinion that it was dishonest inflation." This statement convegs an entirely erroneous impression, implying that part of the gentlemen leagued to promote international bimetallism would deprecate the immediate adoption of that system. No sentiment of such tenor has been expressed in any meeting of those gentlemen, nor has one of them even suggested the necessity or the propriety of a change in the ratio between the propriety of a change in the ratio between
the metals when the nations begin again the free coinage of silver. All those gentlemen free coinage of silver. All those gentlemen well know that were a bimetallic league formed bullion in a silver dollar would be worth much more than fifty cents before a single silver com could be struck. Nor, phenomenally low as the gold price of silver is, would there be any danger that inflation would follow international free coinage, provided Great Britain were a party to this. Outside the Treasury of the United States no large stock of silver bullion exists anywhere. Were international free coinage to begin tomorrow, most of the silver demanded would have to be first mined and then coined before it could become part of the effective circulation. And when the full force of the new regime had come into play in the working of mines and mints, the play in the working of mines and mints, the sole effect that silver would exert on prices would be, I believe, to prevent them from falling any further. No one who has carefully examined the question longer fears a "flood" of silver. This metal, like gold, is under the stern law of diminishing return. My own belief is that, while the international free coinage of silver, along with the new supplies of gold now coming in sight, would sustain prices at about their present level for a very long time to come-perhaps a century-the total gold and silver of the world both together will ultimately be unable to do this.
That silver could be freely coined by several nations without a rise in prices seems incredi ole only to those who do not allow for the immense spur and enlargement to industry which an arrest of the fall in prices would bring. Let prices cease to fall, let investments in enterprises for producing wealth again become safe, as before 1890 , let the stockholder again have a chance to make something as well as the bondholder, let the loaning of European and United States capital in China, Japan, India, and Mexico cease to be a form of gambling, as the destruction of the par of exchange with those countries has made it, and the world will enter upon a period of business prosperity such as has never yet occurred. So vast an expansion of business will be involved in this that the utmost amount of money which the coinage of both the precious metals can afford will be too small rather than too large.
While criticising in this way the above incl dental statement, I beg to thank The Outlook for its lucid, truthful, and informing treatment of the silver question in general.
E. Benjamin Andrews

Brown University, February 19, 1894.

## About People

-Mr. Arthur James Balfour, the leader of the Tories in the House of Commons, occupies his spare time with hypnotic and other psychical investigations.
-Prince Esterhazy, the supposed richest man in Austria-Hungary, has just died. Prodigal extravagance had reduced his father's landed possessions from ninety-three to but

[^0]thirty-five square miles, and hence poor Prince Nicholas had an annual income of only a hundred thousand dollars.
-The Georgia Society of the Sons of the Revolution is soliciting subscriptions for a monument to General James Edward Oglehorpe, the founder and first Governor of the State of Georgia.
-The famous African explorer, Mr. F. C. Selous, has shot more than twenty lions and at least one hundred elephants. Of the flesh of the first animal he says: "Lion pie is almost as good as veal pasty, and quite as white."
-"Hello, Governor!" spoken with a loud voice in the United States Senate Chamber attracts, it is said, the immediate attention of Messes. Hill, Hawley, Harris, Colquitt, Gerdon, Bate, Perkins, Proctor, Shoup, Vance, and Coke.
-Mr. Robert P. Porter, who has been widely known as Superintendent of the United States Census, has retired from the editorship of the New York "Press," and is now Comptroller of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Assocation.
-That once well-known writer of milo dramatic novels, Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, has just passed her seventy-fourth birthday. Her residence is on the heights of West Washington, which commands a view of the Virginia hills, the scene of many of her stories.
-The coveted Schiller prize, awarded every three years to the best poetic work appearing in that time, was recently conferred by a commission of the most eminent critics of Germany mission of the most eminent crick William II mon Ludwig Fula, whereupon William 1. as gracious k pleased commission's vote. That mature ruler de"redly disapproves of the dramatic fairy-tale, Der Talisman," and has thus done it the most effective bit of advertising which it could possibly have received. The plot of the play is based upon that tale of Andersen's concerning the imaginary garment which can be seen only by the wise and good. A puppet king makes a great stir with his wonderiul robe, until of a sudden a child's voice is heard : "Why, the King hasn't got anything on !" The treatmont is in rhymed verse, but it seems that Fulda's exquisite art does not sufficiently hide his political invective.

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"SOUTHERN" (St .Louis and Chicago)
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## Mark Twain's Latest

On Washington's Birthday, New Bedford's great adjunct, the town of Fairhaven, Mass., dedicated the third and by far the most costly and elaborate edifice given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Rogers, who have now spent a million dollars on a school building, library, and town hall for this fortunate community. The great feature of the formal presentation to the civic corporation was a speech by Mark Twain, who said in part :

By a thoughtful and judicious allotment of the privileges of this occasion, each speaker has been appointed to the function best suited to his capacity, his character, and his credit in the community. Chief of all the speakers, and the most eloquent, stands the building itself. It is its easy office to declare to you the love of its builder for the town which was her birthplace and the home of her girlhood. It may be trusted to say its say well, and be understood, and be applauded from the heart; and to occupy the platform longer than anybody else, and make the only speech that will be printed right in the papers. Yes, it is the only speaker of us all, gifted and popular as we try to let on to be, that can dare to stand up here and undertake to hold your unfatigued attention for a hundred years. Why, we couldn't do it for forty!
'We all recognize the value of this building as an example and a suggestion-a suggestion to any who are moved by love for their fellowmen to make gifts to them of hospitals, or town halls, or libraries, to build these things while they are alive, not wait till they are dead. If you do it while you are alive, it is really done, and well done; but if you wait till you are dead, there is but a barren result and a divided profit; you get credit for the intention, and the lawyers get the money. The stomachs of the lawyers of this land are distended to utter discomfort with the eleemosynary architecture that they have swallowed. In all this world there is no joy like to the joy a lawyer feels when he sees a good-hearted, inconsiderate person erecting a free library, or a town hall, or a hospital in his will. He smiles the smile that only he knows how to smile, and goes into training for the anaconda act. Perhaps no one has ever known a dead man to try to do even the least little simple thing without making a botch of it. The truth is, a dead man ought to lie still, and keep quiet, and try to behave. But you can't teach him that ; you can't teach him any useful thing. Everything about him is perishable but one thing, and that is his inability to acbut one thing, and that is his inability to accept the fact that circumstances over which
he has no control have limited his activities.
he has no control have limited his activities. impossible to make him understand that there is nothing very large or fine or generous in spending his own money on himself and building hospitals with his children's cash. Why, some people do seem to get duller and duller the deader they get. Oh, well, perhaps it's no matter; it is the way they are made. Probably the mistake was in making them at all. I mean, if it was a mistake I am no judge of that, but I wouldn't leave it to them
"It was a pleasant and patriotic thought to dedicate this building and confirm this grace to Fairhaven on the natal day of Washington - George Washington, first of Americans George Washington, the father of his country; George Washington, the father of those who cannot lie. The family has dwindled a good deal. But I am left yet, and when I look back over the waste of years and call up the faces of the others, and know that I shall see them no more in this life, and that I must remain now solitary and forlornly conspicuous to the last, the sole remnant of that old noble stock, it makes me feel sad, and-and-oh, so lonesome!
"In the distribution of the privileges of this platform I was appointed to temper the glare of the gay and thoughtless oratory of these others with the wholesome shadow of a few words of sober advice, for there is a time for such things, and it is meet that we recognize this truth and rest our spirits with intervals of seriousness and solemnity. And so, my advice to you-yes, more, my supplication-is that you live as Washington lived, live as I have
lived, and build your gift halls and hospital while you still live and can build your heart as well as your money into your gift."

## An English Story-Teller and His Work

"Q."-namely, Mr. Quiller-Couch-lives in the queer old town of Fowey, near Plymouth, on the Cornish coast, and rarely comes up to London, for, though well built and stroke of his Trinity eight when at Oxford, he has no use for the more nervous life of cities. As Mr. Raymond Blathwayt says, " he gives one the idea of being a country gentleman at his ease, more at home on the moor or the river than as a dweller in cities and a wielder of the pen of so ready a writer." The novelist him self says, "My calling ties me to no office stool, makes me no man's slave, compels me to no action that my soul condemns. It sets me free from town life, which I loathe, and allows me to breathe clean air to exercise limbs as well as brain, to tread good turf, and wake up every morning to the sound and smell of the sea, and that wide prospect which to my eyes is the dearest on earth. All happiness must be purchased with a price, though people seldom recognize this; and part of the price is that, living thus, a man can never amass a fortune. But as it is ex tremely unlikely that I could have done this tremely unlikely that I could have done this in any other pursuit, I may claim that I have the better of the bargain." He was not distin
guished at Oxford for physical prowess alone guished at Oxford for physical prowess alone tions, and afterwards became a college lecture in Classics. His desire to tell a story was aroused by reading Stevenson's "Treasure Island." He was then but nineteen. His peculiar gift of pathos in description won him quick recognition when he gave "Dead Man's Rock" and "Noughts and Crosses" to the world, a gift quite as apparent in his new book, "The Delectable Duchy," which deals exclusively with the scenes, customs, and traditions of Cornwall.
-At a recent meeting of the graduates of Miss Brown's school, New York City, the foundation by them of an Ella Weed scholar ship at Barnard College was decided upon.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ See editorial comment in The Week

