Correspondence Boston Bimetallism ¹

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 coincer of fifty central worth 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 conveys 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 coke.

Mr. Robert P. Porter, who has been with the most 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 metals when the nations begin again the free coinage of silver. All those gentlemen well know that were a bimetallic league formed containing England and the United States the bullion in a silver dollar would be worth much more than fifty cents before a single silver coin could be struck. Nor, phenomenally loss as the gold price of silver is, would there be any danger that inflation would follow international free coinage, porvoided Great Britain were a party to this. Outside the Treasury of the United States to large stock of silver bullion exists anywhere. Were international ree coinage to begin to-morrow, 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 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 storn law of diminishing return. My own belief is that, while the international free coinage of silver, along with the new supplies of silver, long with the new supplies of silver, long with the new supplies of silver bullions without a rise in prices seems increditions without a rise in prices seems increditions without a rise in prices seems increditions without a rise in prices seems incredition of the part of exchange with the secontries has made it, and the world will enter upon a period of business prosperity such as has nevery which an arrest of the fall in prices would be for the immense spur and enlargement to industry which an arrest of the fall in prices would be formed to the part of the world will be something as well as the bondholder, let the loa

ness 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 incidental statement, I beg to thank The Outlook for its lucid, truthful, and informing treatment of the cilver question in general.

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

thirty-five square miles, and hence poor Prince

thirty-live 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 Oglethorpe, the founder and first Governor of the State of Georgia.

—The formuse African explorer Mr. F. C.

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 Messrs. Hill, Hawley, Harris, Colquitt, Gordon, Bate, Perkins, Proctor, Shoup, Vance, and Coke. 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 Comp-

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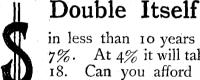
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 "ULSTER" (New York).

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¹See editorial comment in The Week.

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 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 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 attention for a hundred years. couldn't do it for forty! Why,

'We all recognize the value of this building '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. nary 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 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 accept the fact that circumstances over which he has no control have limited his activities.

he has no control have limited his activities.

"And first and last and all the time it is "And first and last and all the time it is 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 least of the matter of the matter of the mistake was a mistake I am no judge. 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 like The family head windled a good George Washington, the tather of those wno 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 and and and and has a tock, 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 hospitals 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 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 himself 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; a price, though people seldom recognize this; and part of the price is that, living thus, a man and part of the price is that, living thus, a man can never amass a fortune. But as it is extremely 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 distinguished at Oxford for physical prowess alone. A scholar of Trinity, he took first in Moderations, and afterwards became a college lecturer 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 scholarship at Barnard College was decided upon.

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