

CURRENT OPINIONS.

GOLD, SILVER, OR PAPER?

"WHEN doctors disagree," the patient stands a poor show; but in the contest now waxing hot in the States, patients and physicians alike seem inextricably confused. The Presidential election, whichever party wins, for both are silverites, will undoubtedly have momentous effects, for there can be no doubt that, while the moneyed classes will make strenuous efforts to prevent either party putting their ideas into effect, the state of the public mind is such that some attempt in that direction is certain to be made. The important question is, how will the attempt be made? We cannot imagine that the wild language used by either side at all fairly describes the intentions or policy of its opponents. We cannot credit the whole people with being intentionally fraudulent. If the Democratic ticket be carried, is it possible to conceive that the U.S. Mint will be ordered to receive silver bullion and hand back an equal weight of coined dollars worth just twice as much? A writer points out that the silver dollar at present in circulation is equal in value to the gold or paper dollar because it is limited in supply and can be accepted by the Government in payment of taxes. This, so far as the Government (that is, the people) is concerned, is a test of its utility and the parity of its amount to requirements; and the same test would apply to paper money. And finally the whole question depends upon the financial stability of the people and their ability to pay in goods of their own production for whatever they may need. To manipulate the currency in favor of individuals or classes, hitherto the rule, is sure to lead to disaster; the only remedy is for the Government to control the whole issue of currency, and to make whatever profit there may be in it. The wild talk about repudiation is beside the mark. Repudiation would soon bring its own nemesis. The following extracts are culled from a very large number selected from all parts of the Union by our valued contemporary, *Public Opinion*, of New York:

The essence of the free-silver Populistic platform adopted by the Chicago convention is anarchy. No wild-eyed and rattle-brained horde of the red flag ever proclaimed a fiercer defiance of law, precedent, order and government. It is the hysterical declaration of a reckless and lawless crusade of sectional animosity and class antagonism.—*New York Mail and Express*.

The free-silver panacea may be as vicious as McKinleyism, but it is not so patent a fraud.—*Vicksburg (Miss.) Commercial Herald*.

The silver craze as manifested at Chicago is a crusade born of despair, the last, abortive struggle of a dying party.—*New Haven (Conn.) Palladium*.

The platform is the best and strongest that has been adopted for years. It should command the support of every free silverite and advocate of democratic government.—*Opelika (Ala.) News*.

The Chicago platform cannot be accepted. The United States was made democratic, and it must remain so. Free-silver coinage would be national dishonor and a monumental anachronism.—*New York Sun*.

The Democracy is fighting for the people. It repudiates protection for the trusts, and demands protection for the poor man, and a chance for him to enjoy the fruits of his labors.—*Kansas City (Mo.) Times*.

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