

or value, the British small silver coins bearing, in payment to a limited amount, the same nominal relation to the dollar, which they do now, and the crown and sovereign having, as now, a fractional value.

I remain, &c., &c.

JOHN LANGTON.

From JAMES LESSLIE, Esquire, Toronto.

SIR :—In reply to the circular you sent me relative to a decimal coinage or currency for the Province, I am of opinion that a coinage or currency analogous to that of the United States would be universally acceptable, because it simplifies all calculations. To secure the application of the principle to business generally a date might be fixed by law when all accounts should be kept in the new currency, the general and municipal Governments setting the example in the mode of keeping their books, and in all public returns.

The same decimal principle might also with equal advantage be applied to weights, so that the cwt. should be no longer 112 lbs. but 100 lbs.

I am, &c.

J. LESSLIE.

Toronto, 28th March, 1855.

No. 1.

UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COINAGE.

Extracts of a Report of Mr. Abbott Lawrence, United States' Minister at London, to Mr. Secretary Webster, Washington, dated London, December 31st, 1851.

"The silver coinage of England is effected by a seignorage (this means an allowance for coining bullion, exacted by the Crown,) of about ten per cent; a pound troy (5760 grains) being coined into 66 shillings, or an ounce (480 grains) into five shillings and sixpence (sterling), while the price is rarely more than five shillings per ounce. The sixpence per ounce at which it circulates in England, of course prevents its exportation. Silver in England is not a legal tender to a greater amount than forty shillings, and the quantity necessary for small exchanges is determined by the Government, which does not coin it, as it does gold, for any one depositing bullion. In the United States the standard of silver is put too high, in proportion to gold, and cannot, I think, be maintained. The following are the relative proportions of gold and silver, as fixed by some European Governments in their coinage :

England	about	14.159	silver	to	one	of	gold.
Russia	"	15.333	"	"	"	"	"
Holland	"	15.5	"	"	"	"	"
France	"	15.5	"	"	"	"	"

In my former despatch, I referred to the fact that the gold coins of France are not melted and assayed in the mints of England, and *vice versa*, to the similarity of the French and English standards. I learn, however, that this is not referable to that fact; but to the fact, that in each country there is a uniformity in the quality of its own coins.

Our coins are melted both in France and in England. The adoption of the standard of either of these countries, would not of itself prevent the necessity for this, since it does not arise from a disparity of standard, which, within certain limits, is a matter of indifference, but from want of constant conformity to the standard adopted."