

leaves capital intact ; but only transfers the profits from the usurer to the workmen. The annihilation of money, on the contrary, would plunge society again into barbarism. These excellent old worthies probably did not know that money is powerful for good as well as evil, and only requires to be regulated. I repeat, a reduction of the rate dispenses with the vicious properties of money ; but retains in it all that is really useful. The economy of a legitimate and permanent reduction of the rate of interest will be justified by the most decisive step forward that civilization has ever made. Briefly, the farmer would have all the means he could use to advantage in thoroughly draining and tilling of the soil. As a consequence, production would be increased immensely. Cheap products mean cheap living ; then follow cheap manufactures. The mechanic and manufacturer having less interest to pay, would have larger profits to divide. The home markets would first be supplied, then foreign goods kept out ; and the sum-total of industry immensely multiplied.

*W.*—But would cheapened manufactures not leave the laborer less for his work ?

*V.*—On the contrary. If the nominal price of labor declined, yet a day's labor would produce more of the necessities of life than it now does ; and that is the main point. The increase of machinery would give relief from drudging toil, and afford more time for higher pursuits. Imports would become beautifully less, and the balance of trade speedily reversed. The national debt, now in foreign hands, would first