

**Mr. Bryan  
learning a  
Silver Lesson.**

Mr. W. J. Bryan, the silver party's candidate in the last and probable their's also in the next Presidential election, being recently in Mexico, exchanged \$500 American money for Mexican, receiving it is said \$1,000 for half that sum, owing to the Mexican dollar being at a discount of fifty per cent. If Mr. Bryan is on the hunt for object lessons on silver he should take a box or bag of American silver dollars to Europe. He would learn two things, first, how very convenient silver coins are, for he would find \$250 worth as much as he could carry about without assistance. Indeed, if he carried that moderate sum, or even half the amount, a few yards, he would receive new light on the silver question, as he would discover that, while \$250 in notes or gold were practically of no weight in the pocket, that amount in silver was a load impossible to carry about without lively perspiration and weariness. He would also find his silver of no use at all as current money, and only saleable for such money as was passable at a very heavy discount, while if he had gold coins he could pass them anywhere at nearly their face value. Another thing he would discover would be that, whenever a silver currency is superabundant in any country, or district, it falls to a far lower discount than represents the mere relation of the supply to the demand, owing to the cost and difficulty of removing it to a better market, whereas gold is moved about so readily that the trouble and cost are inappreciable. It is not generally known, even to those who handle much of it, that silver coinage is often at a discount in England. Provincial banks regulate this by not allowing interest on deposits of silver for some days after the deposit is made, whereas deposits of gold and notes begin to carry interest at once. Bills on London, which are drawn to an enormous extent by banks in the old land, are drawn for 7, 14 or 21 days without commission, according to the state of their London account and their need of the class of currency tendered in payment for such drafts. If silver is not wanted, they will not draw a draft in exchange for it for less than 21 days, when, if gold were tendered, or notes, a draft would be issued for seven or fourteen days, gold being treated as always at par, whereas silver fluctuates as its supply moves up and down. Before Mr. Bryan enters upon another campaign on behalf of an expansion of silver currency he should travel in the old world and learn from observation how universally silver coinage is becoming more and more unpopular and gold growing in favor.

**New Piers  
at New York.**

The New York Dock Commissioners have had plans prepared for new piers at a cost of \$8,500,000. The plans involve the construction also of a new street, 250 feet wide. Steps have been taken towards acquiring the necessary properties by what are termed "Condemnatory proceedings," which are analogous to what we term "expropriation," this power being vested in

the Commissioners. A similar movement is being made at other American ports, so that most valuable hints in regard to our harbour improvements could be got by a visit to New York, Boston and other ports where wharf extensions are about being made on a very costly scale.

**Athletics  
run mad.**

We presume there is no legal mode of prohibiting such displays of Athletic insanity as the six days' bicycle race just exhibited in New York. But it is lamentable that such a reckless disregard of human life and human sanity should be made a public circus. The contest was between young men who were incited by the offer of money prizes to ride a bicycle race for six days and nights as continuously as their strength and their brains allowed. Tests of the capacity of the human frame to stand the strain of continuous violent exertion for a great length of time have been made before. Captain Barclay, if our memory is correct, walked 1,000 miles in 1,000 successive hours, one mile being covered each hour. This allowed of intervals of one hour and a half for sleep and refreshment, as, say at 12 o'clock, one mile was walked in 15 minutes, then at 1-4 to 2 o'clock a second mile was begun. The walking was kept up under these conditions for 1,000 hours, or nearly six weeks, and was regarded a marvellous feat of endurance, as such brief intervals for sleep for so lengthy a period are a terrible strain upon physical and mental strength. In the New York case the effort was made to dispense even with such short intervals, the result being the spectacle of young men riding their wheels until the claims of sleep became so imperative that they fell off the machine in a stupor. A physician warned them against the contest as certain to so injure the brain as to cause insanity. We are not surprised then to find that one bicyclist, Rivierre, a Frenchman, became a raving maniac, yet in that condition was forced back on his wheel until he had to be removed, his displays of lunacy being greeted by the spectators of this revolting scene with howling and yells. The New York Press says: "Rivierre, a raving maniac; Moore, injured to a degree that it will take weeks to cure him; Pierce, a jabbering idiot, shocked into sensibility by an electric battery; Elkes, Enterman and Gray, ordered from the track for rest by the police, is the recapitulation of the fifth day's brutality at the bicycle 'race.'" Athleticism has run mad to make such an exhibition possible. Its only rival is seen in India where fanatics display their brutal bluntness by inserting hooks into their flesh, and hang like carcasses in a butcher's shop to the intense admiration of degraded onlookers. But those men are barbarians, heathens, while the New York show of self-inflicted tortures was given by supposed civilized men to delight supposed civilized spectators. The whole affair, however, was inspired by gambling, and it adds another crime to those of which gambling is the prime inspiration.