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hour. In the language of an eminent economist, we have but looked on the things which are seen, forgetting that there are things unseen, divine principles and laws, which will scourge us as with scorpions. If we deliberately and persistently refuse to listen to their voice or endeavour to thrust them out of their lawful sphere. In one way or other, all economic truth will have to do with our race. It rests with ourselves whether it comes to us as an angel of mercy or as a messenger of wrath.

I need hardly pause to point out the importance of an enquiry like this. To all disinterested investigators in the field of political economy there cannot be anything more important presented for consideration than the branch of the subject now before us. If lending money on interest be a blessing to labor, then it is evident that the human race enjoys a blessing of no ordinary magnitude—if it be otherwise, then we may well tremble in presence of what we have fostered into such amazing growth and power. I address myself, in these pages, to the wise and thoughtful of the land, before whom the cry of suffering and defenceless industry can never be raised in vain. It is, therefore, with feelings of deep solemnity and earnestness that I bring under their notice, as well as I can, some thoughts on a practice which daily affects, for weal or for woe, so many millions of our fellow-men.

The subject is not, by any means, a difficult one. Its kernel can be reached by any person of common understanding. It is embraced in a few truths which any ordinary intellect may easily grasp. I am far from saying that there is not now the appearance of complex problems in connection with the great science of political economy; but this I say, that we have ourselves made these problems complex and obscure by burying them beneath a mass of rubbish. Form anything into dogma, it has been well remarked, and it will be elung to with the utmost pertinacity. The remark, though applied to the field of theology, may be referred with fully as much truth to the domain of political economy. Does it not seem that in all processes of mental investigation the trouble is in getting our minds into a condition to receive truth?

In this investigation, the nature and work of money prominently claim our attention. I have the conviction that we will all be the better for learning something more than we now know of the common article, money.

The question has been asked over and over again. What is money? Well, what is it? Perhaps something new can still be said in reply. It is in our hands every day, and is as familiar to us as the clothes we wear, and yet there are some subtle things connected with it which we must not pass by—subtle, not because there is anything very abstruse in the things themselves, but simply because they are so apt to slip past our notice.

Money, it is perceived and acknowledged, is the most complete labor saving instrument known. Practically it brings the most distant products of industry to an immediate market. Fluent as water, it soon reaches the utmost verge of civilization, and wherever products are offered for sale there will money soon be found to buy. It carries a large amount of the world's sweat and toil wrapped up in the smallest compass. It is, therefore, one of the most beneficent gifts of our Creator, indispensable to the progress and elevation of the race. In its work it is at once gentle as au