

*From the Annual Report of the Secretary of the United States to Congress, December 1853.*

LIST OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES, the value of which has been fixed by the laws of the United States.

Franc of France and Belgium	- \$0 18 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	Pagoda of India	- - - 1 84
Florin of Netherlands	- - - 40	Real Vellon of Spain	- - - 5
Florin of Southern States of Germany	- - - 40	Real Plate of Spain	- - - 10
Guilder of Netherlands	- - - 40	Rupee, Company	- - - 44 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Livre Tournois of France	- - - 18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Rupee of British India	- - - 44
Lira of the Lombardo Venetian kingdom	- - - 16	Specie Dollar of Denmark	- - - 1 05
Lira of Tuscany	- - - 16	Rix Dollar or Thaler of Prussia and the Northern States of Germany	- - - 69
Lira of Sardinia	- - - 18 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	Rix Dollar of Bremen	- - - 78 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Milrea of Portugal	- - - 1 12	Ruble, silver, of Russia	- - - 75
Milrea of Azores	- - - 83 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Specie Dollar of Sweden and Norway	- - - 1 06
Marc Banco of Hamburg	- - - 35	Florin of Austria	- - - 48 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Pound sterling of Great Britain	- 4 84	Ducat of Naples	- - - 80
Pound of British Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Canada	- 4 00	Ounce of Sicily	- - - 2 40
Dollars of Mexico, Chili, and Central America	- - - 1 00	Tael of China	- - - 1 48
		Leghorn Livre	- - - 16

No. 3.

Copy of a Letter addressed to the Inspector of Training Schools, by order of the President of the Privy Council, London, England.

DECIMALS.

Committee of Council on Education, Council Office, Whitehall, January 31, 1854.

H.M. Inspector of Training Schools.

REV. SIR,

I AM directed by the Lord President to bring under your notice the fact, that there is a very strong feeling in the country that we should adopt a system of decimals in our coinage, and in our weights and measures.

The strongest objection urged against this change is, that it would create misapprehension and mistrust in the minds of the people.

The Lord President thinks you might with advantage call the attention of the principals of training schools to the importance of thoroughly imbuing the students under their charge with such a practical knowledge of decimals as will enable them to disseminate the information needed to accompany such a change.

The Lord President thinks that this may be done by a special notice in your Report, for the year 1853-4; by personal communication in the course of your next circuit of inspection, and by introducing a few questions that bear upon the subject in the examination papers to be proposed in 1854.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. R. W. LINGEN.

No. 4.

SAVING OF LABOUR by DECIMAL ACCOUNTS.

From *The Britannia*, a London Weekly Newspaper, February 24, 1855.

That "the saving of labour is a saving of capital," is a self-evident axiom; and by the decimal system of accounts an immense reduction of labour, and consequently increase of capital, may at once be safely calculated upon. Although the exact quantity of time that will be thus rescued from the present tedious course of keeping accounts has been variously estimated, every calculation agrees that the quantity is great; and in respect to the checking of accounts, where a nearer approximation can be got at the amount of time carried to the decimal art of computation, reaches at least ninety-five per cent. Here there is at once a mental labour-saving system, to enhance the wealth of our country to an inappreciable extent, and upon which no doubt whatever can for a moment cloud the accepted impression of its extraordinary powers and efficiency. Like all grand facts "its simplicity is its truth," and its benefits are as ready of access to the merest tyro as to the erudite. Like all great gifts it will moreover take effect at the period when most needed. The increased and increasing circle of our general commercial usefulness, and the increased and increasing radii of the operations of individual banking, mercantile, and other extensive establishments, call at once for the practical adoption of this system, and to such it will prove as a new life, removing from the brain of its members an incubus of mental mechanism, which ere long will be looked back upon as barbarous and absurd. At a period too, when the greatest solicitude is being evinced by the far-seer into the mercantile future, with the drain caused by emigration, and mayhap that arising from long protracted war, this labour-saving system will amply compensate for the scarcity of hands, while saving the increased capital which would be necessary for its payment.