

## Money, Tyrant Always.

**I**N every age and in every clime there existed tyrants. Even to-day we find them everywhere. A drop of rainwater shows us one infusoria preying upon the other : the bees have their queen ; the herrings of the sea, the cranes we see flying in the air, the elephants roaming through the virgin forests of India and Ceylon—all have their leaders and commanders. Why then should man prove an exception ? And indeed he does not. It is with him as with the other species of the animal kingdom, for do we not meet, at every step, the more highly elevated in society tormenting his inferiors, while he himself in his turn is put down by his superiors. And every day and everywhere we see that bane of society, the petty domestic tyrant ill-treating his wife, brow-beating his servants and terrifying his children. Yet, strange to say, the worst tyrants are sometimes those whom we do not consider as such at all. Democratic Athens was never more despotically ruled than when it was under the sway of a man who never was Archon. So the greatest of despots is something that we can keep beneath our thumb, twist around our finger, put into our pockets, an object which never says a word, yet than which nothing makes more noise in the world—money. "Money a tyrant ?" we hear many a sceptic say incredulously, "Why money is one of the faithfulest servants that man has !" But nevertheless, it is a fact, money is a tyrant.

Nowadays, it is hard to understand, how men could live without money. What miserable times those must have been, when, as Homer tells us, the value of things could be expressed only in cattle. Thus a tripod came to be known as a *tessaraboia* a woman, for women were bought and sold in those primitive times, as *dodekaboïus*, and what was considered of less value than a cow, could not be valued at all. All praise and thanks to the man who first conceived the idea of attaching a determined permanent value to certain pieces of metal. After that it was possible also to buy articles of less value than an ox and it