England buys off the States, a balance of debt being created which England has to pay. How do the free silver people suppose such a debt can be liquidated if there is no common standard to appraise the extent of that debt? How can international obligations arising from international exchanges of goods be settled if one country confines its currency to forms which are designed and intended for domestic use exclusively? Obviously under such conditions the nation restricting itself to a currency of that nature would be compelled to do all its trading within its own borders. Governor Altgeld, a prominent free silverite, says that the recognition of gold as the medium for international settlements is "slavery," is subjection to England. But neither he nor anyone of his party have offered any explanation of the difficulty we have stated. If the Western farmers sell their produce in British markets, they must of necessity sell them in accordance with the monetary standard used in those markets. They cannot place wheat in Mark Lane, and insist on being paid for it in such currency as is alone recognized, obtainable and usable in the States. Payments both ways may be and are chiefly made by instruments of credit, but every credit instrument rests upon some standard common to both its issuer and its recipient. The amount of a bill of exchange, or a bond, or a share, is expressed in some denomination of money, as in sterling, or dollars. In whatever form of money such instruments are drawn that money is understood to be convertible into another form agreeable to the receiver, and understood to be so agreeable by the sender. That is, in all international settlements of debt, there must be mutuality between creditor and debtor, and the recognition by both of a common standard is a necessity for a mutual agreement. The currency of Great Britain is based upon the gold standard, consequently, all the financial transactions of Great Britain are based upon that standard. Whoever buys in that country must pay in gold, or its equivalent, whoever sells there must accept payment in gold or its equivalent. If, as the silverites contend so vehemently, Americans are robbed by having to sell under a gold standard, they are compensated by purchasing to an almost equal extent under the same standard. If gold currency, as they affirm, lowers the selling price or value of the products of America in British markets, the same currency must also lower the value or selling price of the products of Great Britain which they purchase. So, in the long run, the "gold cure" is applied to remedy whatever ill gold has wrought. No one outside a lunatic asylum, or a free silver convention, would imagine England buying American goods and agreeing to pay for them in dollars of full value, and then for goods sold to Americans accepting payment in dollars worth in the market only fifty three cents. No! the money standard must be the same in both markets, just as the capacity of a bushel must be the same at a Western farm as in Mark Lane market. To carry out the idea of America having a currency unrelated to foreign money, and independent of foreign currencies for exchange purposes, it would be necessary for the States to confine its trade to its own borders, and to have no monetary relations with other nations.

Governor Altgeld declared at Chicago that the States had an army and navy strong enough to compel England to submit to a currency based on the ratio of 16 to 1. Even that committed them to a common standard, which they denounced as slavery to British ideas The more the utterances of Mr. Bryan and his friends are considered, the more visionary are their theories seen to be.

WHY IS GOLD FLOWING INTO THE UNITED STATES?

The influx of gold into the United States, which is one of the leading features in the present monetary situation, although it has been treated as a mystery, is easily explained. Last year the movement of the gold was the reverse way, the exports of it in August, 1895, being $15,133,000, and in September $16,674,000. The drain would have been far greater but for the resolution of bankers and business men to abstain from any action calculated to deplete the Treasury reserve. The stock of gold was then being kept up by artificial means, from fear of what might follow from the free action of market conditions. Had those conditions existed this autumn, it would have been exceedingly difficult to prevent a serious outflow of gold, as the demand would have been too great and too urgent to have been met by any artificial means. Patriotism, which moved bankers and financiers to adopt special methods for guarding the Treasury reserve, is doubtless a very strong force, but a more powerful one is the action of economic conditions. The movement of gold from one place to another, whether in the same country or from one country to another, is no more mysterious than the transfer of produce from one market to another. Gold is moved either to pay debts for which at the time it is the most economic or only acceptable medium, or it is sent to a market for sale where it can be handled with profit. When any country where securities are being created or issued stands in good credit, those securities can be shipped to cover any obligations existing which require liquidation. These obligations may be, either for loans maturing which are required to be met, or for debts created by receipts of goods, or in payment for securities sent for redemption or sale.

Foreign exchange so constantly spoken of in this connection simply is an order upon the house drawn upon to transfer a portion of what it owes to the drawer, or which it has agreed to lend to such drawer. If there are no funds to be drawn upon, or credit, and payment must be made for which no credit instruments are available, then gold has to be used for making the payment required. Should, however, funds exist at a distant point in excess of what are needed to meet the obligations of those at a distance, and such funds are needed by the owners, then gold is shipped to put these owners in possession of such funds at home. The movement of gold has two aspects. the strictly mercantile, arising from balances between exports and imports of