

This legal tender at different periods and in different nations has been composed of a variety of substances; at present in most nations it is composed of certain metals, which have received an impress from the Sovereign power of the State. They are then called coins, and are Money in the country that issues them, but not so in any other country, except where special provision is made to receive them as such. In foreign countries coins are merely bullion, and receive the same consideration as any other commodity of commerce.

The simplest and most perfect form of Money is that which represents *nothing but transferable debt* and of which the material is of *no intrinsic value*, such as paper. It is only, however, when States have reached a high degree of civilization that they will adopt, under proper regulations, this most perfect form. At present the material of it consists of something which has an intrinsic value, such as gold and silver. From this circumstance the purchase of an article with a gold coin is of a mixed character, and partakes somewhat of the nature both of a barter and a sale. But the *intrinsic value* is of a *secondary consideration* and not the one which gives it its characteristic of money. It is its general reception as the visible symbol of transferable debt, which constitutes the essence of money, and distinguishes a coin from a similar piece of metal of another shape.

The difference between conducting commercial transactions by way of barter and by means of the intervention of money, is that in the former case, they are considered directly as *equivalents*, in the latter they proceed in the tacit assumption of the geometrical axiom that things which are *equal to the same* are *equal to each other*. Money is that third thing which is used as the common measure, to which every thing else is referred, and the superiority of the latter method of conducting commerce is so obvious and decided that it has universally superseded the former among civilized nations.

When there is much money in a country, the prices of property and services are high; when there is little prices are low. It is therefore the amount of money in a country that regulates the price of property and services,

and
I
mon
qua
deb
ther
pay
muc
mon
whi
nom
whi
den
mon
with
caus
fere

V
cred
mea
mea
any
unfi

N
as n
stan
shou
bette
mon
grea
able

In
comm
more
the c
ounc
intro
whol