

## PAPER AS CURRENCY: ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

It was a bold step of Mr. Chase to take upon himself the responsibility of supplanting the private issues of the banks by Government paper, irrespective of the liking or disliking of the measure by the banking interest; and the result goes far to prove how greatly inimical to the public welfare are those vested monopolies which confine the trade in money to formal and antiquated grooves, out of which he who would travel is cried down as a reckless innovator. It can hardly be denied the the spirit and magnitude of the several warlike expeditions—armaments which for promptitude and extent have never been equalled—have been due to the boldness and freedom of the financial policy. It is true we may be told to wait and see the consequences of a departure from the acknowledged and well-tried laws observed in money operations, but we have already certain facts which lead to inevitable conclusions. Prophets have not been wanting who predicted a grand collapse; but there is really no absolute reason for very general disaster ensuing from a temporary superabundance of the circulating medium, so long as the people are content to receive it in exchange for goods and labor amongst themselves, that is in the transactions of domestic commerce. Even granting there is danger from a redundancy, the evil is one that must eventually cure itself; the surplus being either wasted or lying idle; while, on the other hand, an insufficient currency necessarily cripples all enterprise and renders labor unproductive.

It is of little importance of what material the medium is made if it answers the purpose of parties requiring its agency. The medium by which we exchange thoughts is mere arbitrary signs, used by common consent to represent any and every given idea; and it is not until we want to convey the idea abroad that we find a difficulty; our sign, our symbol, our medium is not current; it is not accepted at the value we place upon it and which it readily commands at home, where it answers every purpose. So is it with the currency or circulating medium of any country; it is perfectly good so long as it keeps within its own bounds, but offer it to the foreigner and he declines to recognise it. Which then is of the first importance, to feed and foster our own population and its interests, or to look to the