Through the constant increase of gold within the last thirty years, for which England has been the chief mart, the trading classes have been enabled to accumulate and to loan out, vast sums to foreign countries. Consequently many countries are now tributary to her citizens, on account of interest on loans, which also tends to increase the circulation of money in England, and to keep up prices. And besides the incubus of her own National debt, she has the head offices of innumerable Banking and other Joint Stock Companies, extending their operations all over the world, located in London. These circumstances in connection with the very injudicions system of limited liability, are sufficient to destroy the prosperity of the most industrious and favoured country. Mere non-productive exchanges and high prices do not produce profits.

All political economists from Adam Smith downwards have assumed that the production of the precious metals is regulated by the same law as the production of other commodities. That is to say, that when they became cheaper, or of less exchangeable value, than the result of the same amount of labor applied to other callings, then their production would cease. Their use as money, however, at a fixed weight in all countries, has caused such a continued demand for them as currency, that their exchangeable value has not yet been sufficiently reduced to prevent their production. Yet it might have been expected, that the immense additions of paper to the currencies of the world within the last two hundred years, such as bank notes, government notes, discounting on bank deposits, checks, bills of exchange, notes of hand clearing houses, etc., etc., would have brought the exchangeable value of the metals below the producing point. That however apparently, has not yet been reached.

According to common report, within the last thirty years, some thousands of millions of dollars in gold have been added to the currencies of the world, representing the unnecessary loss of so much labor, beside the other evils produced by a constantly increasing currency. No doubt a standard of value as well as a circulating medium is necessary for the purpose of facilitating trade; and experience has sufficiently demonstrated that the only method for keeping the standard correct, or unvarying, is to limit the circulating medium, as near as possible, to the necessary quantity. The metals under the present system of money have proved but a very imperfect standard; and, with the present amount of trade, their circulation in all transactions would be quite impossible. Most writers agree, that a steady standard of value is a matter of great importance, and that such standard cannot be made of a commodity; simply, because there is no commodity in existence, which can at all times be produced with the same amount of labour, and can as constantly be consumed at the same rate at which it is produced; both of which contingencies would be essential qualifications for such a standard. The subject of producing a permanent unvarying standard of value has often been discussed; but hitherto without arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. In the year 1832 a pamphlet of nearly one hundred pages was published to prove that wheat was the only commodity that could possibly furnish a standard of value;