

sion a standard of value as reliable as a carefully guarded yard measure is a standard of length, or a gallon measure a standard of bulk, or a pound measure a standard of weight. It is on this stupendous

ing the policy and the practice which suits them best. As the monetary Colonial policy of England has of late years tended towards the adoption, for her smaller settlements, of the currency most convenient for the people of these dependencies, even though that currency should be that of the neighbouring nations, it is highly probable that the British West Indies, would, as a whole, gladly fall in with an American Bimetallic Union of full standard gold and silver coin, and that no serious objection would be offered in England to a Canadian movement in the same direction. In British Honduras, as we are informed by Mr. Goschen, to whose published notes I am indebted for much of this information as to Colonial currency, the circulation consists almost entirely of the dollars of the United States and of Central America. In the Bahamas and smaller islands the coins of the United States occupy the field of circulation.

The following appears to be the present condition of the monetary metals on the American continent. The double standard countries: the United States (with, however, its mints at present closed against the public), Chili, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay, Hayti, San Domingo, Cuba, French and Dutch Guiana. The single gold-standard countries: Canada, Brazil, the Argentine Republic, British Honduras (nominally), Jamaica, British Guiana. The single silver-standard countries: Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

In conclusion, we may gather from all that has been set forth that everything is hopeful for a unification of coinage, of standard, and of money of account on this side the Atlantic. It would be the recognition on a great scale of the prophetic words of Napoleon on his prison rock, "a common law, a common measure, and a common coinage, express the chief wants of Europe."

I respectfully commend these thoughts to the consideration of the American press and people, and venture to hope that the attention of the different Governments interested may be drawn towards the subject. Everybody knows how difficult it is to clothe in popular language anything treating on monetary science. The present is an attempt, at any rate, to draw public attention into a new and practical channel on questions which must always command precedence in the affairs of men. How to assimilate the coinages and establish the monetary standards of this great Continent on a basis which shall be at once international, equitable, stable and permanent, is indeed a noble subject for debate, a theme of profoundest interest to every thinker who wishes well to the peace of the world, the security of industry, and the general happiness of mankind.

MONTREAL, Canada, July, 1882.

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