

Extracts from a letter from the Director of the United States Mint, dated March 3, 1852, to Mr. William L. Hodge, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

"The expense of coinage at this mint during the past year, exclusive of the cost of refining or parting (which is paid by the depositors under the present laws,) was about 42-100 of one per cent. on a coinage of \$52,689,878, of which nearly all was in gold. At New Orleans, on a coinage of about \$10,000,000, the percentage I estimate, on data not entirely reliable, at 17-100." * * * * *

"In England the gold is coined at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the silver at $2\frac{1}{2}$, these charges being, however, paid by Government and not by depositors. At the mints in British India, the seigniorage is 2 per cent. on both gold and silver."

No. 2.

ASSESSMENT OF DUTIES ON MERCHANDIZE INVOICED IN OTHER THAN UNITED STATES CURRENCY.

On the 19th of September, 1851, the Treasury Department of the United States, issued an instruction to officers of the Customs, to the effect that the law requires invoices of imported goods subject to an *ad valorem* duty to be made out in the currency of the country from whence such goods are sent, and to exhibit the true market value in such country—that on such value, converted into dollars and cents, duties are assessed—that when the currency is depreciated [as, for instance, when the banks and government of any nation are paying in paper promises only, and not in gold or silver at the nominal rates,] the real value of the goods invoiced is to be ascertained by Consular certificates or otherwise, and that Congress had fixed the value of certain foreign currencies, for the purpose of calculating duties at the rates marked in the following table:—

From the Annual Report of the Secretary of the United States, to Congress, December, 1853.

LIST OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES, THE VALUE OF WHICH HAS BEEN FIXED BY THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Franc of France and Belgium	\$0 18 $\frac{6}{10}$	Pagoda or India	1 84
Florin of Netherlands	40	Real Vellon of Spain	5
Florin of Southern States of Germany	40	Real Plate of Spain	10
Guilder of Netherlands	40	Rupee Company	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Livre Tournois of France	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rupee of British India	44
Lira of the Lombardo Venetian kingdom	16	Specie dollar of Denmark	1 05
Lira of Tuscany	16	Rix dollar or thaler of Prussia and the Northern States of Germany	69
Lira of Sardinia	18 $\frac{6}{10}$	Rix dollar of Bremen	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milrea of Portugal	1 12	Ruble, Silver, of Russia	75
Milrea of Azores	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Specie dollar of Sweden and Norway	1 06
Marc Banco of Hamburg	35	Florin of Austria	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pound sterling of Great Britain	4 84	Ducat of Naples	80
Pound of British Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick		Ounce of Sicily	2 40
Newfoundland and Canada	4 00	Tael of China	1 48
Dollars of Mexico, Chili, and Central America	1 00	Leghorn livre	16