

in English circles, although silver is knocking at a thousand doors loud enough to be heard by every ear.

Let me say to my bimetallic friends that I think they do our cause

of pure gold in the coins of the two countries. Some other par would have to be found, and what that par could be, or in what secret depth or distant region it is to be found, only a monometallist can tell. If Lord Sherbrooke turns his back on facts like these and still shuts himself up in his monometallic castle, there is nothing for bimetallics to do but to leave him with the men who dread silver as a currency because God has endowed it with the special weight to which it owns, and without which it would be neither silver nor currency. In a word, we have gone to the utmost verge of reason with our friends, and further than that we cannot go.

The mintage under an American Bimetallic Union should be not only assimilated to the ratio, but, as regards both metals, to the weight and fineness of the legal tender coins of the European Latin Union. We would thus enjoy a real community of money between America and a large portion of Europe. The assimilation of values would be complete although the monetary system on the other side rested on numeration by francs, and on this side on numeration in dollars. And there ought to be little difficulty in so arranging matters as to give international currency to the coins of both Unions, by some sort of international stamping or otherwise. This, however, is a matter to be left in the hands of skilful experts. One thing we should carefully avoid—the fabrication of any degraded or “subsidiary” silver coins, a monetary error on which the Latin Union unfortunately set the seal of its approval. The mints should be free to all, but there should be no straining after that economic impossibility, *gratuitous* coinage.

Lastly, there are not the same difficulties in the way with us as in Europe relative to the adoption of a monetary unit. The dollar, born long ago in the heart of the mountains of Bohemia, has had a history and influence in human affairs surpassing that of any other coin. There is hardly a nation but has seen its face or become familiar with its name. The Mexican dollar, like the best goods on the market, has always been in extensive demand and ranks as a great traveller, its superior weight having caused it to be more generally sought after for shipment than other varieties of the Spanish dollar. The Frenchman will naturally stick to his franc, the Englishman to his pound, the Austrian to his florin, the Russian to his rouble, the Scandinavian to his krone, the German to his mark, the Italian to his lire. National feeling in such matters is not to be overcome in a day. But on this Continent the dollar reigns supreme. It is familiarly known throughout its length and breadth. It is the sum and substance of all our monetary thought and discussion. And the silver dollar, as a recognized unit, has travelled far beyond the American seaboard. It is the only legal tender in Hong-Kong, and, concurrently with a Japanese dollar, is legal tender in all the Straits settlements of the East. In the British West Indies, the subsidiary silver of England has gradually displaced the long current doubloon and dollar, owing to the fact of that degraded silver having by law been elevated to the rank of unlimited legal tender. And thus these British pieces have driven out the more valuable gold and silver coin. Such a currency is in the highest degree unsatisfactory, and cannot but do serious injury to the commerce of these Islands. England, like every good parent, can have no other desire than to see her children adopt-