in relation to itself, notwithstanding the diminished value of other articles, its proportionate value is practically increasing.

My belief is that if we investigate the motions of the so called fluctuations of gold, we would find them restricted to demand and supply. We have had but rare occasions of gold discoveries, so large, as to cause a depreciation, on the contrary, the more is found, the more it seems to become appreciated, and almost concurrently with increasing supplies the price of commodities generally decrease. So every thing fluctuates in relation to every other thing and the motion is a circulating one, for money, as a rule, flows back to money centres and there it resumes its level. Hence, if there are differences, in the value of money, it is between its instruments and not because of money itself, and it is therefore as to their relative value, as metals, that the standards are discussed.

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The innate or inborn superiority of gold is never questioned, the objection is in its sensitiveness to the laws of demand and supply. Its native value lies in its usefulness for industrial and artistic purposes in which it is estimated that from 60 to 70 p.c. of the world's production is employed to excellent effect. It outlasts everything else ; it is of a compass twenty-seven times smaller than silver and therefore more commodious; it is in constant demand as merchandise, and, because it is also desired as money, its marketable value is steadier than that of any other commodity. But the value of silver cannot be belittled, for it is, to all intents and purposes, the best available auxiliary to gold as subsidiary minor money.

In the times of the Romans gold was about ten times as valuable as silver and silver was ten times as valuable as silver, and silver was ten times as valuable as copper. —(Jevons.)

From the beginning of the sixteenth century to the middle of our own the quantity of silver produced exceeded that of gold more than thirty-two times and the fall in value 32 per cent. In the 16th the ratio was 1 to 11½ ; in the 17th, 1 to 12½ ; in the 18th, 1 to 15 1-16 ; and in the early days of this century it was 1 to 15·65.

The English shilling was orginally the twentieth part of a pound weight of silver. It is now the 62nd part.

The loss of purchasing power in silver during the past decade has been remarkable. In 1873 it sold at $1.21 an ounce. In 1876 the price had fallen to 94 cents, or a ratio of 1 to 20. It advanced to $1.02 in 1883, receding to 88 cents, ten years later (1892) it fell further to 55 cents in 1895, and is now worth about 69 cents, or 1 to 29·96.

Here we have a practical and pointed illustrations that the value of silver is regulated on gold, and that, while gold remains steady (whatever its form or stamp) and carries with it its worth in weight in all countries, silver, on the contrary, is constantly disturbed.

And it is proven by experience that every important change in the natural disparity of power between gold and silver causes the disappearance of the dearer metal, which reappears only when equilibrium is restored. Should the bullion price of either metal be above the nominal value of the coin that metal is sure to be exported or employed to more profitable purposes.

Scarcity of money produces lower prices, and abundance produces higher prices in labor commodities and property. But we must distinguish between money and a specific kind of money.

Scarcity of money occurs in specie countries when coins have disappeared, and that is—real scarcity. But where there is an elastic system of currency money need not be scarce unless for causes which render scarcity artificial. Artificial scarcity is when those in want of money have nothing to give in exchange. Scarcity of gold or silver is only artificial scarcity, because money has other substitutes.