

And it is hereby further declared that the efforts of the Government should be steadily directed to the establishment of such a safe system of bimetalism as will maintain at all times the equal power of every dollar coined or issued by the United States in the markets and in the payment of debts.

IN speaking of "Newspaper Puffery" such as is indulged in by the Toronto daily papers, the *Monetary Times* has this to say:

The custom is growing in Canada, as it has done in the States, of permitting advertisements to be inserted in the news columns and even in the editorial columns of newspapers, being paid for at so much a line. These advertising puffs are often inserted just as they are written by the parties who are to be benefited by them. No matter how extravagant and unlikely the statements, no matter how strong the adjectives, the influence of the advertising agent appears so to overcome the better judgment of the editor, that he will pledge the reputation of his paper to the truth of the statement that Jones & Jones are the oldest, richest and best tin-smiths in America, although he knows, or ought to know, that Smith & Smith are older, that Robinson Brothers are better off, and that Thomson & Co. are better workmen. The same adjectives are too often employed in describing the wares of the deserving merchant and the snide concern. This policy may do for a while, but its falsity is sure to be found out, to the injury of the paper which makes such untrue, and often ridiculous statements; sensible people find it nauseating. It is homely truth that, as Abraham Lincoln put it: "You may fool some people all the time, you may fool all the people a part of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." While it is a well understood rule among newspaper folk that editorial notices are to be reserved for people who advertise in the paper, no amount of preference for an advertiser should lead the newspaper to a stupid untruth in his interest.

A MATTER of considerable interest to merchants was brought before the Controller of Customs on the occasion of his visit to this city on Monday last. It was in regard to the depreciation of silver currency in those countries where silver is the standard. The Custom authorities, in view of the action of the United States Government in reducing the value of silver currency, have indicated their intention of immediately meeting the conditions resulting from the depreciation of silver, and of proclaiming a new value for the currency of those countries where the depreciation has arisen.—*The Shareholder*.

Our esteemed and wise contemporary is wrong in supposing that the United States Government have reduced the value of its silver currency; or that the United States is a country where silver is the only standard. A silver dollar has as great purchasing power in that country as a gold dollar, and a gold dollar has no more purchasing power there than a silver dollar. And while the market value of silver is so fluctuating how is it possible for the Dominion Government to proclaim a new value for American silver coin to-day that would properly represent its true value to-morrow? Meantime American silver dollars are received at face value at this office for subscriptions to *THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER*.

THE Comptroller of Customs has acted with promptness and vigor in the great heather dispute. The minions of the tariff law and red tape have been crushed. The representative of the genus *Erica* that glorifies with its purple beauty the wastes of the Scottish moors and hillsides has been elevated to a special place in the tariff free list. The Caledonian society

will save forty cents. And its concert has received a free advertisement that would make a theatrical advance agent turn seven colors with envy. It is a newspaper man who is running the Caledonian concert this year.—*Montreal Gazette*.

All right for the heather. Now let the Controller act with some promptness and vigor in declaring that blast furnace slag, for the manufacture of mineral wool, shall also be included in the free list.

A TORONTO man has written the following letter to the editor of the *Buffalo Express* which explains itself:—

In your esteemed journal of the 21st you say: "The settled portions of the United States have not in many years, and possibly never, suffered so much from train-robberies, highway robberies, during burglaries, etc., as at present. Is there not an explanation of these crimes in the prevailing hard times?" I answer yes, there is a splendid remedy to inaugurate the reign of law and order, this is my patent medicine, to wit: Pitch Republican rule overboard and run up British monarchy, under which wing life, property and progress are duly respected. Now know ye! that the brightest star that brilliantly glitters these fine October nights with resplendent rays amid gorgeous myriads of overhanging nebulous corruscations sailing under the Allwise Great Captain of the universe unruddered through infinite constellations of magnificent magnitude around this terrestrial sphere is called Britannia, and "don't you forget it."

AMID all the confusion about the silver question, it may be well to remember that the nation is greater than its Senate and greater still than its transient recalcitrant element. Its commerce and its finances may be embarrassed; but who that understands the omnipotence of those forces will count despondently upon the continuance of any obstacles that a handful of obstructionists can raise? The public will may be defied; but is there any American who so lightly values the principle of popular sovereignty as to imagine that a score of selfish schemers can successfully defy that supreme authority? It conveys a ridiculously exaggerated compliment to the recalcitrant Senators to imagine that the silver deadlock is due to any power or sagacity of theirs. The whole trouble centres in a defect in the machinery of the legislative branch of the Government, which makes it possible for the popular will to fail of its due expression. The only credit the defiant minority can claim is that they have the brute courage to use this organic defect for the service of their own selfish purposes. That credit will have to be set off by the infamy their names will bear in the records of national legislation, and by the absence of success even in the infamous sense upon which they put most value. To suppose that this defect in the rules of Senate debate will be more than momentarily permitted would be an insult to the national common sense; and that repair being effected, the popular will in respect to silver will be immediately executed. Surely this assurance should suffice to prevent the public impatience from lapsing into despondency. If we cannot safely act upon the assumption that this question will be disposed of in accordance with the public demand, we cannot be properly said to have the power to govern ourselves.—*New York Journal of Commerce*.

Here's dignity from the Lord Chesterfield of the New York press. United States Senators who do not bow their necks to the behests of Mr. Cleveland, and who dare to act upon their own convictions, are a recalcitrant element, obstructionists, defiers of the public will, selfish schemers, defiant minority, users of brute courage, infamous, insulters of the national common sense. The *Journal of Commerce* represents the sentiments of the free traders of New York.