On Picket Duty.

The Ohio Alliance has accepted Bellamy's proposition and adopted a resolution demanding that "the exclusive importation, exportation, manufacture, and sale of all spirituous liquors shall be conducted by the government at cost." The New York "Sunny" well remarks that the more this proposition is studied the more crazy it appears.

Mr. Auberon Herbert writes to the "Personal Rights Journal," forecasting Mr. Tarbell's motion that all sections of the English Individualist army combine to destroy the monopoly of the post offices. The editor of the "Journal" does not appear to be much interested in the proposal, as he confines himself to the remark that there would be great difficulty in getting a member of Parliament to lead the assault. Alexander Spooner did not think the active cooperation of parliamentary patrons indispensable to an attack upon the postal monopoly. The editor of the "Journal" would do well to study Spooner's methods of postal reform.

A "Pall Mall Gazette" editor welcomes James Russell Lowell with Rooklin and Carlyle. A more unintelligent estimate could scarcely be made. It is true that at the beginning of his career Lowell showed pronounced Socialist tendencies, but this is absurdly insufficient as a basis for the classification, which classifies an utter want of critical judgment as well as astonishing ignorance of the respective messages and missions of Carlyle and Ruskin. Lowell was not of the stuff great men are made of. A truly great man never becomes a successful modern "diplomat" and capital "after-dinner speaker." That Lowell the conservative and contracted politician was not the Lowell whose radicalism inspired the immortal "truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne," we are painfully made to realize by the praise and admiration which his death has elicited from the representatives of English "society."

"If there is one disease the enforced isolation of those infected with which might seem desirable, it is leprosy," truly says the "Personal Rights Journal." Yet there is evidence not only that this brutal method fails, but that it is the very cause of the diffusion of the malady. A competent person is reported to have said with regard to the leper-inster-island of Molokai: "The fact that lepers are sent to Molokai makes them afraid to consult a doctor at the time when they could be cured; they hide their disease, and so it spreads everywhere. . . . Leprosy is taken in time, much can be done to cure it; but if it goes on for years without treatment it is hopeless. The worst of it is that the moneyed lepers manage to hide the disease, and so it spreads all over the islands. Directly they are known to be diseased, they are sent to Molokai. They die here more than death, and they manage to go on a long time before they are known to be lepers. There is no earthly hope for those who go to Molokai." This fact lends additional strength to the position that in cases where the course authorized by equal liberty is not absolutely clear, it is better to suffer a possible injury than resort to credible measures.

A Love Affair.

A DRAMA IN ONE ACT. BY GEORGE FORREST.

Characters.

GEORGE CARLTON, a young literary man.
HELEN CARLTON, his wife.
ARThUR ELiOT, a young music teacher.

[Scene: Carlton's study, a large room, with several arm-chairs; a writing desk, open, with lighted student's lamp at the left-hand corner; at the middle of the room a large table, strewn with magazines and newspapers; against the wall to the left, behind the table, a leather-covered lounge on which Carlton is lying, evidently asleep.]

MRS. CARLTON, accompanied by Elliot carrying a roll of music, enters through door on right. Carlton, seated in a sitting posture, stands up, and bows to his wife.

ELSiot: Shall I put the music on the table, Mrs. Carlton?
CARLTON: She has gone in the other room. You; put it on the table. How did you enjoy the opera this afternoon? Did Helen appreciate it?
ELSiot: Oh, yes; and she will learn a great deal, no doubt, by attending frequently. I always make it a part of my instruction to take pupils to the opera.
CARLTON: You have a great many jolly pupils, have you not?
ELSiot: Yes; why?
CARLTON walks over to centre of large table and sits on the edge among the papers. Picks up a paper and begins to look over.
ELSiot: Carlton, after looking at the table. Oh, nothing. What was the opera? Helen didn't tell me.
CARLTON: "Pygmalion and Galatea." Very beautiful.
ELSiot: Elliot, who has been standing, walks over to the table and sits down.
ELSiot: Did you ever hear it?
CARLTON: Yes; the music is excellent; but I don't care much for the moral of the piece. Why should Pygmalion be the striker of this? "Aching in love with the statue." -
ELSiot: But, you mean, he has. You had one wife already; you know. It would be immoral if -
ELSiot: But they loved each other.
CARLTON: It would be wrong, nevertheless.
ELSiot: Why?
CARLTON: Surely you know; because he is legally married to one.
ELSiot: Carlton, Oh! Both look over the magazines on the table for a while.
CARLTON: But if two men love the one woman and she is married to one of them, but not the one she loves most, what then?
ELSiot: She can get a divorce if he'll treat her; she need not -
ELSiot: He loves her, he said.
ELSiot: Then it is her place to endeavor to return his love.
CARLTON: Carlton, (after a long pause, during which he brings the lamp from the desk and places it on the table.) Were you ever in love?
ELSiot: (who is becoming uneasy.) That is hardly a proper question, Mr. Carlton, to -
ELSiot: (very coolly continuing.) With another man's wife?
ELSiot: Mr. Carlton enters from the left and takes a seat at the table; she removes her bonnet and cloak.
ELSiot: I must beg your pardon, Mrs. Carlton; but I had better go.
MRS. CARLTON: By no means; I cannot allow it (she notices that he is nervous and wishes to be off); but if you must, why then -
ELSiot: He won't go; he knows I have something very important to say to him.
ELSiot: I do not care to hear it. If you are a gentleman, you will avoid speaking before Mrs. Carlton as you intend to. I know what the matter is.
As against the scheme itself the contention is that wealth originates solely in production and that wealth of some rich people is nasty and as it is thought inordinately increased. But this banking scheme does not add to production. (5) It is but a scheme for helping and organizing the banks so that the banks may control the income of the rich. But without any attempt at deduction experience discloses the intention that the changes are in favor of the man who has the money. (6) A regulated financial system is less valuable financially and economically than that of students of principles. The man who can actually value a horse, a horse of wheat, is more useful in any pursuit than a student of principles who can only analyze the components of value by prolonged and tarry research. The trader helps society most and at greatest cost to the cost of the trader. It is indeed, and it is probably cheaper to society to pay this figure for the organization of commerce than the Apprentice in a unaniourly expensive and necessary service, and its successes and its failures seem to point in this direction in this country.

(6) Government interference in finance has broken down whenever it has done serious violence to sound economic principles. At present it does not so. It needlessly coin some metal. This is in England accompanied with the creation of new bank notes and the increasing quantity of unproductive metal whose production has been greatly cheapened of late. Apart from the silver levy of your government the residual small coinage of the country is not in circulation, nor commercial. They are confined to the loss arising from carrying on a productive or disarranger process by government. Such a scheme, it shows, is the only one without the combination or separately under the economic control of competition. Here it is pure fancy unsupported by any evidence. The world has not seen a state of existence where the movements of the metal or materially exercise the market into an inferior commodity as its most reliable and most frequent investment. (7) There is no theft of the prosperous people in making a law empowering the use of golden drinking vessels with any laws connected with the use of gold as currency. A true analogy would be to sell my services or my product for annotating iron by laws. Such a law would not demote gold unless it were much more teneable in its mode of preserving iron as a good tenable metal. (8) Government interference in commerce, income, borrowings, taxes, import, export, all government outlay in wages, war material, grants to become a political or financial class and all accounts, official values, financial bankrupt state, and so on, would be in terms of iron. But if a market is free to promise future delivery, or sell my services or my product for annotating iron at a price and promise to give or take iron at an agreed time and place or hire oneself for iron or for board and lodging or any other mode of remuneration I can get anyone to agree to open. (9) Now it is quite likely the first effect of this would be to raise the price of iron and thereby lower the value of gold in comparison with iron, making the production of iron more profitable. It is also quite likely it would stimulate the production of iron. But both of these effects would combine to maintain a larger demand for iron and suffer to iron and consumer. This would steady value, but it would also in time counteract the first temporary effects of the supposed monetization of iron, and make the true effect of the production would be to counteract with the sole exception of the small increase of consumption from wear and tear of coins. It would not in all probability displace gold as the money in all markets. No market can be stilled. If a man do, replacing, and taking the best monetary substance, would attempt to monetize an ill-adapted commodity, a steel became a substitute for iron, and would at last defeat as it has often done when debasement or other anti-economic schemes were undertaken.

If you assert the utility of gold consists in the fact that it is used for currency then your general position is inimical. But that this is not sound is somewhat implied in all the arguments you adduce. As Greenidge who recognizes: "The real value of a commodity is due to its adaptability to use." and would be defeated if it has often done when debasement or other anti-economic schemes were undertaken.

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and when I say that the laborer's wages should be 40 cents a day, I mean that the total amount which he receives for his labor, whether in advance or subsequently, and whether consumed before or after the performance of his labor, should be equal in market value to his total contribution to the product upon which he labors. Is this a demand for what is unjustly paid for? Is this a demand for what is unjustly taken? If so, might I ask to whom the excess of product over wage equitably go?

(2) Every man who postpones consumption takes a risk. If he keeps commodities which he does not wish to consume, gambling in his hope of changing them for gold, the gold may decline in value. If he exchanges them for government paper promising gold on demand, the paper may decline in value. And if he exchanges them for goods, this transaction (like a loan or a mortgage on a debt in a chain), has its element of risk. But, as long as merchants seem to think that they run less risk by temporarily placing their valuables at the disposal of others than by retaining possession of them, the advocates of metal money will no more concern them- selves about giving them recompense beyond the bare return of their values unimpairred than the advocates of gold and government paper will concern themselves to insure the constancy of the one or the solvency of the other.

(10) There is no contradiction between my position and Greene's. Greene held, as I hold, that the existing monopoly imparts an artificial value to gold, and that the abolition of the monopoly would take away this fictitious advantage. But he also held, as I hold, that after this reduction of value had been effected, the various ones in the volume of mutual money would be independent of the price of specie. In other words, this reduction of the value of gold from the artificial to the natural would permit them to issue paper money to other commodities to serve as a basis of currency, but, this liberty having been granted and having been taken effect, the issue of mutual money against these commodities, each note being based on a specific portion of the natural currency, and each note serving as a basis of currency for a specific commodity, would have the effect of lowering the price of gold than would a monopoly that should allow only certain persons to deal in gold. The price of gold is determined less by the number of persons dealing in it than by the ratio of the total supply to the total demand. The monopoly of the Anarchists, complain of the monopoly that increases the demand for gold by giving it the currency function to the exclusion of other commodities. If my whiskey is worth a dollar, if its price is lowered, my whiskey being the only alcoholic drink allowed to be sold as a beverage, it would command a higher price than it commands now. I should then tell Mr. Fisher that the value of whiskey was artificial, and that free run would reduce it to its normal point. If he should then ask me what the normal point was, I should answer that I had no means of knowing. If he should respond that the fall in whiskey resulting from free run would be limited to such relinquishment of price, the whiskey is free, I should acquiesce with the remark that the distance from London to Liverpool is equal to the distance from Liverpool to London.

(11) It is Mr. Fisher's analogy, not mine, that is tenable. The analogy is not between gold and the commodities carried, but between gold and the vehicle in which they are carried. The cargo of peaches that rots on its way from California to New England may not be economically consigned to its proper utility (conspicuous perhaps it isn't as economic a. the tipping of silver into the Atlantic by the United States government, which Mr. Fisher considers purely economic), but at any rate the wear of the car that carries the cargo is an instance of economic waste. The same is true of the gold that goes to California to pay for those pesch-es and comes back to New England to pay for cotton cloth, and thus goes back and forth as constantly as the railway car and facilitates exchange equally with the railway car and wears out in the process just as the railway car wears out, Is in my judgment consumed precisely as the railroad car is consumed. That only is a complete pro-

of the money. Mr. Fisher tells us, which is in the hands of a person who applies it to the direct gratification of some personal craving. I suppose Mr. Fisher will not deny that a railway car is a complete product. But if it can be said to be in the hands of a person who applies it to the direct gratification of some personal craving that is not a condition which can be said of gold.

(12) I did not mean to say for a moment that a government could carry out such an arbitrary policy of fixing values to an unlimited extent without a revolution, but only that as far as the attempt should be made, the inevitable result, pending the revolution, would be stated.

(13) Yes, to a trifling extent. And if the horse were then to be used to buy a sleep, and then to buy a dog, and then to buy a cat, and then to buy a cigar, the horse would not be sold for enough costs to keep him from falling in his tracks, it is my firm conviction that the horse in that case would be economically consumed in fulfilling the function of currency.

T. A Century of Fraud.

I have glanced at the August issue of the "Century Magazine," which gives a history of the Argentine cedule. I have also read in a cursory manner the May article. I see that the whole series is so much chapbook to catch the credulous,—a conclusion not surprising. I had seldom looked in the "Century," having long since summed it up as a publication calculated to render leisure hours pleasant for certain classes. And we know that with those classes the duty of being incorruptible is a property that God has endowed them with,--while at critical times a voluntary contribution to their armory of falsehood is probably accepted as a luxury and may lead to distribution of numerous copies among the voters.

If the holder of the Rhode Island Bank by McMaster and by the "Century" writer might be accepted, there was nothing in the scheme the failure of which can reflect on free banking. They say it was a chartered monopoly from the first, and that the bor-

nowers were allowed to have quantities of paper money far exceeding the value of the security pledged, which course would seem to show that the manage-

ment did not aim to keep the paper at par with coin. One may suspect that there was treason in the bank organization to damn the principle misrepresented.

If as advertised the General Assembly "came to the aid of the bank . . . a forcing act was passed subjecting any person who should refuse to take the bills in payment for goods on the same terms as specie, or should in any way discourage their circulation in such terms, to a fine of $100 and the loss of his rights as a freeman. This made matters worse than ever . . ."

 Naturally, how we do not know whether or not the specie bankers of that time had the General Assembly "come to the aid of the land Bank quite as a second and more powerful footstep comes to the aid of the victim who is struggling in the embrace of footpath number one,—quite as the "Cen-

tury" comes to the aid of seekers of eco-

nomic information.

Universal Suffrage.

[Unattributed]

Conte de X meets his terror. Finard.

"You are going to vote, Finard?"

"Why yes, Monsieur Count, saving your respect."

"But are you going to vote for the good candidates, are you not?"

"Oh! certainly, Monsieur Count. See, there's the ballot."

"But, you poor fellow, that's the bad ticket; this is the good one."

"Ah! what should I have done if it had not been for you, Monsieur Count? Thank you very much!"

And Finard goes out to cast the ballots given him by the Count.

In the evening the Count again meets Finard.

"Good evening, Finard! Then you voted right?"

"Oh! yes, indeed, Monsieur Count, thanks to you. But imagine the good joke I played on that fellow Frenchmen; I gave him the bad ticket and told him it was the good one, and he went and put it in the ballot-box! Hea, ha!"
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