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A SERIOUS QUESTION.

There is no question but that the United States during the next few months will pass through a crucial experience and, if certain events happen, the experience may extend through the next four or five years. This is nothing more or less than a possible revolution of our system of finance—an attempt to "go it alone" among the commercial nations of the world, and a virtual declaration that if the other nations are not satisfied with our money they need not trade with us.

This money question is a momentous one, and for that reason we have devoted considerable space to it of late. It is a question that appeals to all—rich or poor. If it be true, as the advocates of a gold standard say, that silver monometallism and the free and unlimited coinage of silver will mean that a silver dollar will be worth only fifty cents and that the wage earner will either have to have his wages doubled or his weekly wages will purchase just half what they are capable of purchasing to-day. If it be true, as the free silver men allege, that the big capitalists of the east by hoarding all the gold in the country and forcing the country into bankruptcy by contracting the currency. If it be true, as the bimetallicists assert, that the true solution of the financial problem is bimetallicism or the coinage of both gold and silver at a ratio to be fixed by the government and based on the commercial value of each. If one or all these propositions are true in whole or in part, then the financial question is not one solely to be discussed and studied only by college professors, learned scientists and scholars; it affects the humblest wage earner as much and more than the millionaire and the capitalist.

It must not be assumed that a gold standard will increase wages if there is no market for manufactured goods, or that it will increase the market price of wheat or potatoes if there is an extraordinarily large crop of either or both. It must not be assumed on the other hand that free coinage of silver will increase the crop of wheat on 100 acres of land; add five pounds to the weight of wool on a sheep's back; or that it will atone for lack of rain in a season of drought. Neither gold nor silver standard of values will suffice to prevent commercial depression caused by too large crops and consequently low prices of cereals, or to prevent the overproduction of manufactured goods, the consequent glut of the market, the shutting of mills and the throwing of thousands of persons out of employment. The recent panic was not caused by a lack of a silver standard or a gold standard; it was because of a lack of both when taken as money. If the government had coined millions of silver dollars and thrown them broadcast among the people the condition would not have bettered because the value of the silver dollars would

have shrunk in proportion to the decline in prices of the silver bullion; our currency would have been debased and we should have been years recovering where we will only be months if the people of the country do not make a radical mistake next fall. The banks contributed no small share toward the panic by loaning too much money on too flimsy security. Bankers—and everyone else—were overconfident because times were good, and anyone who was well acquainted with a bank official could get a loan on security that would not be looked at to-day. Quite often these loans were made at the expense of the bank's best customers, because the promoters of these chimerical schemes were willing to pay a bigger "shave" than the legitimate customers. When the crash came the banks shut down summarily on the speculators and even declined to make loans to their legitimate customers on gilt-edged security except at ruinous rates of interest. This was not only uncharitable, it was in violation of every principle of decent business methods.

We digress thus far to impress upon our readers that silver or gold standards of themselves will not and cannot avert commercial depression or restore prosperity to the country. Time and the application of sound business principles alone can do this. There is another phase to the question, however. The United States does not regulate the financial system of the world. The majority of the world's nations adhere to the gold standard. If we wish to do business with them we must also adhere to the gold standard. It is all very well to say that the nation that does not wish to do business on our basis, we do not care to do business with them. But where will we find a market for our surplus commodities? Will the loss of the trade of England, France, Germany and Russia be balanced by the gain of the trade of the Central and South American states, China and Japan, all silver nations? Are we sure these nations will transfer their trade to us?

Would it not be better all around to continue our present system until an international bimetallic agreement can be reached?

UNNECESSARY NOISES.

In an editorial on "Unnecessary Street Noises" the New York "Herald" speaks as follows, and we coincide with its opinion:

"There are factory whistles that are sounded at 7 o'clock every morning and at intervals throughout the day; there are railway locomotives whose screeching and snorting are provocative of insanity and incentives to murder; there are hand organs of high and low degree, with occasional street band accompaniments; there are howling curs and snarling cots; there are ponderous loads of iron that play a devil's tattoo over the Belgian block or granite pavements, and finally there are mobs of discordant peddlers whose harsh and unintelligible cries recall Scott's description of the wild rush of Roderick Dhu's clansmen in the Trozack's jaws, amid such a tumult as if 'all the fiends from heaven that fell had pealed the banner cry of hell.'"

"The factory whistle and the locomotive screech are without excuse. There are comparatively few working people who live near the factories where they are employed, and no one nowadays depends upon the whistle as a timekeeper. It should no longer be tolerated within the city limits, or, indeed, in any place where the people within hearing distance protest against it. Similarly no locomotive should be allowed to roar and create a pandemonium on the tracks or in the yards of any railway. All necessary signals for keeping the tracks clear can be made by other means than savage steam blasts, and the railway companies should be forced to abandon the use of the latter."

The "crowd" at Chicago paid more attention to the financial question than it did to Independence Day last Saturday.

CONCESSIONS MUST BE MADE

While we cannot excuse the rabid hatred with which some of our Western brethren exhibit toward all Eastern folk. While we cannot endorse some of their chaotic and unsound ideas on finance. While we cannot agree with the violent dislike manifested by certain elements of the poorer classes toward the rich, still we cannot, on sober, second thought, but admit that there is some excuse, not justification, for all these sentiments.

Eastern gold monometallists have manipulated the stock exchanges that many a small investor has been ruined and his family driven to penury and starvation. It is true this has not been the fault of the gold standard, but the fact that these "Napoleons of Finance" are among the loudest advocates of a gold basis leads the ruined men to curse gold for their ruin.

Employees who have been ground down by monopolists who, safe from competition, reduced the wages of their workmen at their sweet will or demanded more of the product of their labor for a day's work without advancing wages are not possessed of much kindly feelings toward their employers. They regard the latter as robbers, yes worse, and when they hear these same sordid, heartless capitalists crying aloud for a gold standard, the poor workmen can scarcely be blamed if they curse the yellow metal and resolve to work against it.

The western farmers who have been squeezed and squeezed again by the eastern capitalists who hold mortgages on their farms, are not to be blamed when they favor a silver standard, because the eastern money sharks who have fleeced them are proclaiming that without a gold standard the country will go to rack and ruin.

When it is remembered that a large part of the gold is in the east, and when it is controlled and manipulated as it is by a few hundred money bags who never produced anything, and most of whom spend the greater part of their money in Europe wine and dining and fawning on monarchy and nobility, it is not so much to be wondered at that the classes who represent the opposite walks in life should have become so angered as to adopt an unsound system of finance principally because it was diametrically opposed to that advocated by those they have come to regard as their oppressors.

It may be possible that we will not be able to prevent the election of a president committed to this unsound system of finance. The craze is wide-spread and is evidently increasing. If, however, a sound money president is elected, the eastern capitalists and the employers of labor all over the country must make concessions and adopt a different course during the next four years or we shall surely have a populist president in 1900.

The terrible affair at the Pittston mines should lead to more stringent laws for the protection of coal miners in Pennsylvania. From all the information we can glean the superintendent of the mine knew that it was in an unsafe condition and deliberately sent hundreds of men where he knew there was danger of their death. The superintendent and other officials of the mining company should be indicted for murder.

While we think the Common Council erred in driving the wheelmen off all the sidewalks, yet we hope the cyclists will accept the situation and obey the ordinance. They cannot afford as good citizens to violate the law. Let them obey it and unite in a concerted movement for better streets and a change in the law so that street improvements shall be paid for out of the general tax instead of by local assessments.

The Post Express has raised nearly \$1,400 for the bicycle side path scheme it was the first paper in the city to champion. Our contemporary is entitled to great credit, and the other daily papers should be ashamed of the churlishness they have displayed in trying to throw cold water on the plan instead of endeavoring to "push it along."

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL. St. Matthew, vii. 15-21. At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: "Beware of false prophets who come to you in the clothing of sheep, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. By their fruits you shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, and the evil tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can an evil tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be cut down and shall be cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. Not every one that saith to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doth the will of My Father Who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Why did Christ say that we would know the false prophets by their works? As plants are known by their fruit, so also are false prophets known by their works. Thorns will not bring forth grapes, nor can you gather figs from thistles. In the same manner a corrupt heart cannot produce good actions; and if a hypocrite does something now and then that is good in itself, you will in a short time discover the motive of his actions. A corrupt heart will strive to conceal itself, but its hypocrisy is revealed by its actions. The style of dress, conversation, recreation, amusements, friendships, etc., plainly show the true condition of the heart.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, 12—Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. St. John Gualbert, Abbott. SS. Nabor and Felix, Martyrs. Less. Ecclus. xlv. 1-6; Gosp. Matt. v. 43-48; Last Gosp. Matt. vii. 15-21.
Monday, 13—St. Anacletus, Pope and Martyr.
Tuesday, 14—St. Bonaventura, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church.
Wednesday, 15—St. Henry, Emperor of Germany, Confessor.
Thursday, 16—Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
Friday, 17—St. Aelcius, Confessor.
Saturday, 18—St. Camillus of Lellis, Confessor. St. Symphorosa and Seven Sons, Martyrs.

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THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL has decided to present each of its subscribers who pays his or her subscription in advance to our agent a handsome premium valued at 50 cents, consisting of a handsomely bound volume containing half-tone portraits of the Catholic churches of Rochester and their pastors, and pictures of the Rochester convents, hospitals and asylums.

All the People

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REPORTERS WANTED.

If you do not see any news from your parish in THE JOURNAL, and would like to act as our special correspondent, write us in regard to the matter. We desire correspondents in all unrepresented parishes of the diocese. Address

EDITOR CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Most desirable of all carriages—sleeping coaches, woud reed bodies, plush upholstery, satin parasol, reduced from \$15 to \$10.50.

Sleeping coach with plush upholstery, white parasol, rubber-tired wheels, reduced from \$17.50 to 12.75.

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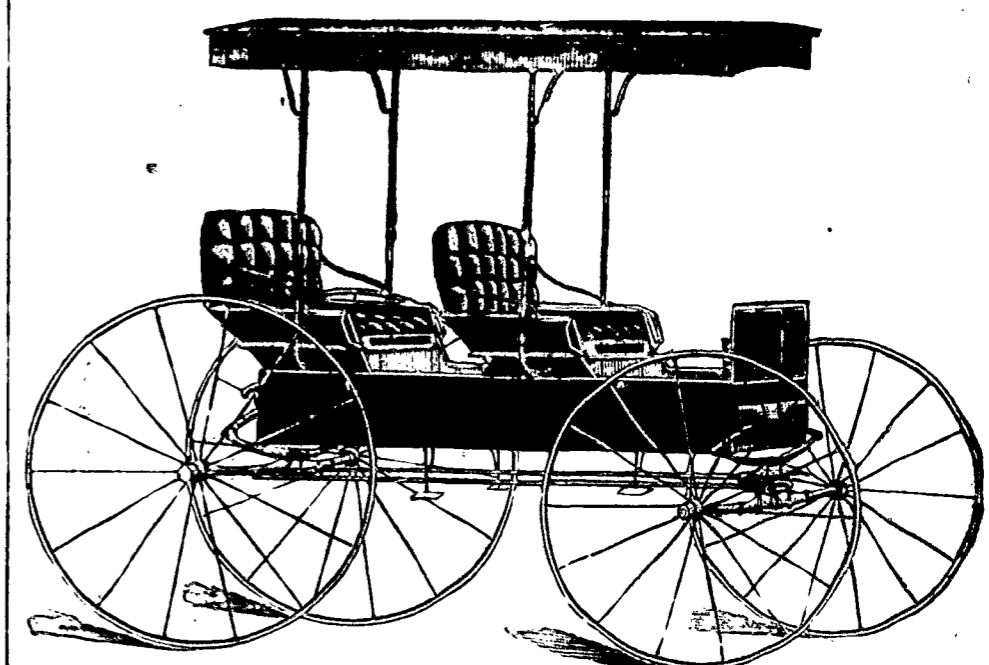
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