

THE BASIS,

A MAGAZINE OF CITIZENSHIP,

WEEKLY.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

ALBION W. TOURGEE, EDITOR.

457 WASHINGTON STREET,

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Mayville, N. Y., July 8, 1895.

Rev. C. H. Coulter,
Central Lake, Mich.

Dear Sir:-

I have yours of the 3rd inst. You ask if I think you are radical in your views. I do not. No one who could entertain such views could be a radical. Any man who is willing to sacrifice the happiness and welfare of a people in order that he may try ~~and untry~~ an experiment which few believe, or ever will believe, would be successful if tried, such a man cannot be a radical. He is simply a firebug, who is willing to see the fabric of civilization burned up in order that he might enjoy the blaze. As to sending the holders of gold-bearing bonds or gold-option notes to hell as you suggest, it might be well enough if you were sure you had the power and that the devil would not get you while you were at it. For the rest it makes not much difference. The trouble that would arise as I fancy, for you and the

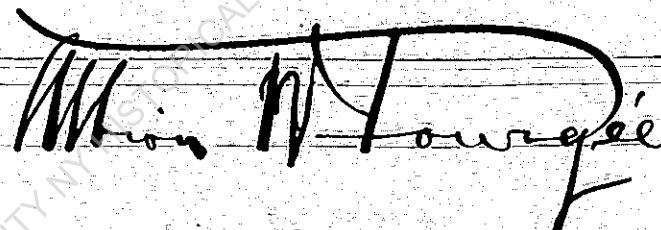
*the ones really strong to make
gold unimpeachable*

few that stand with you in this matter, would be as to which one should get on the slippery side. You are the gold bugs. ~~much interested in the matter, all may go there that choose to, but~~

I will confess I have never known much good to be accomplished in the tearing down process of history. I believe in betterment, and achievement of attainable good. You believe in experiment and trying all ~~un~~ improved theories. In this case I cannot but laugh at your theory, so far as the currency is concerned. The creditor-class of the country as a rule will be content only with a gold standard, that is gold and forms of currency which are equivalent in desirability thereto. ~~This~~ This may be very wicked on their part, but we have to take things in this world as they are. Now if all the debtor-class thought otherwise and should vote otherwise as they will not, there would be no substantial difference in the result. All the time-loans in the country are payable in gold, all the bonds and all the interest of all ~~bonds~~ of all the cities, all the counties, all the states, all the towns, all the villages and all the school districts are payable in gold. Now suppose free coinage of silver or whatever other form of conceivable insanity should obtain possession of the government, what would be the result? They could never by any legislation effect the contracts already existing. Every creditor would demand gold on his bond. ~~and get it.~~ What would be the result? Force sales, legal liquidations, universal bankruptcy, a ^{wrong} crash that has never before been known in a civilization commercial country. And for this who would be responsible? Not I. I would have the nation provide a currency ^{pure} in all parts creating a demand for silver, cheap, elastic, abundant on a gold standard, so

as to be accepted by all, and in the meantime would prohibit future
and so make it impossible for like conditions to recur.
gold options; ^ You would make a vain foolish clamor about what might
be. I would simply keep pegging away to achieve what is possible.

Yours very truly,



Wm. M. Worcester

C. N. COULTER,
Central Lake, Mich.

7-10-1893

because of

Abion W. Young

B. S.
1900

Dear Sir,

Replying to this without free commage of silver and experience to become
ye chroniclers of the past and
teach this great moving lesson
He does not know that free commage was long tried and found
successfull.

It not worry any more about the
wicked gold extorters. God
will "rench" them.
What do you think of the tearing
down of Slavery? You talk
just as I used to hear the old
proslavery scamps talk in all
beller times. Get away with
your old fogies. Now they are
the order of the day. The world moves
on to a better civilization. One where
man cannot afford to oppress and
rob his brother. One in which pri-
vate and corporate ownership shall
give way to Nationalism

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Creditors and bond holders would under free coinage demand gold? (2)

What do they demand under the present monometallic regime?

No the reorganization of silver would enable the creditors

to pay his debts in either

gold or silver as he preferred.

Or better still demonetize both gold and silver and pay the bonds in treasury note as they were to be paid when they were issued. The law should make every attempt to extort gold in payment of debt a crime punishable by imprisonment for life.

And moreover every public official who was implicated in the scheme to fund the floating debt should be hung as a conspirator against the public good.

(3) ~~2~~
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Editor, EBION W. TOURGEE.

WEEKLY.

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BUFFALO, N.Y.

General bankruptcy &c.
follow free coinage?
Get away with big
bears. The old slave
ocrats used to parade
such scarecrows to
frighten the abolitionists.

They did not scare you know,
Better side that old hobby of
the gold bugs. It's too thin.

Then your set scheme of wild cat
banks based on silver. Pshaw!
That's too lame a goose to fool
the people with in these days.
Better side it, the people might
think you had a premium from
the bankers for helping them.

"An experiment which few
believe in." Think free silver
it's are getting mighty plenty into
this "neck of the woods." I don't meet on
in a hundred but what is for free silver.
I should conclude from the last ¹⁸ Basis that
you realize that there are a good many.
Lay aside your foxy ideas & join the great
reform ¹⁸ your fraternally G.N.Canter