

Wells

10 Cabazon Av.
April 19th 1899.

John W. Forger
Mayville New York

Dear Sir

I have been much interested in "Bystander's" notes as published in the "Inter Ocean" especially on finance. The remarks of a Correspondent of yours are rather amusing than otherwise that Gold & Silver are the two metals given by God to be used as money at a certain ratio &c.

There have been many interpreters of God's ways in the world's history and savings of a few have come down to us as sacred because clothed in the garb of antiquity requiring an army of expounders to explain what let's common sense or finance.

My idea of Gold & Silver are that they are products of the earth and worth what they will bring by weight in the world's markets same as wheat corn or any other product and that no stamp of Government can make coins of either or any metal go for more than their market value; really it may be doubtful whether governments

have not used when the value has been affixed to a coin: only weight and fineness and let the markets regulate the value: they do now when the amounts are large —

Governments can not make values therefore the whole supersumption of the Free Silver party that would have silver coined in unlimited quantities at double or more than its real value in the world's markets and the Paperists that would have the Government issue paper in unlimited amounts and irredeemable, fall to the ground; Six million votes and over that were thrown to Bryan does not help matters or change the real facts of the case.

To elucidate in a succinct manner my views of what money really is and will remain in spite of wishes and votes I will state that when men were in a savage or semi-civilized state when one wished for something his neighbor had (and he could not take it by force) he gave something he had that his neighbor wanted in exchange for the article wanted, this is called Barter, and commerce is Barter still

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After a time the metals Gold and Silver were discovered and found to have a certain value in all the great markets of the world and were adopted as the Mineral Exchange Product and Accrifier of balances because they had a recognized value in all markets.

These metals however like Brent & Copper are regulated in value according to supply & demands and can not be considered of fixed valuation.

In conclusion would say stamps - does not make value hence no paper of itself has value by whom ever issued and no metal can be money except what it will go for by weight in the worlds markets.

Sincerely Yours
B.R De Long