REMARKS

ON THE

SUPPOSED DEPRECIATION

OF

PAPER CURRENCY

IN

ENGLAND.

BY A MERCHANT.

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REMARKS, *&c.*

The price of gold having very much risen of late years, and the exchanges between England and other parts of Europe having at the same time turned very much against us, Mr. Huskisson* has attempted to prove, that both those unfavourable circumstances have been produced by the same cause, and that they are a sure mark of a depreciation in our paper currency. Besides the arduous task of establishing this proof, he takes upon him to make it appear, that what-

* *Vide* The Question concerning the Depreciation of our Currency stated and examined, by W. Huskisson, Esq.

On the contrary he says that there has been no one

ever rise is experienced in the price of gold, must draw after it a proportionate rise in the prices of all the property in the country. He seems aware that gold does not amount to one hundredth part of that property, and yet most bitterly laments that merchants are held, by their contracted views and bad old habits, from uniting with him in acknowledging that the price of bullion-gold must ever regulate the price of every other article;—that they will not admit with him the real causes which have now so much advanced the price of gold;—that they will not confess with him that its present high price in this country and the state of our exchanges are sure proofs of the depreciation of our paper currency, produced, as he supposes, by an injudicious management of the affairs of the Bank;—and, lastly, that they will not join with him in opinion on the cause that has brought our exchanges to their present state.

Though Mr. Huskisson seems to be himself perfectly satisfied with his own opinion on these points, and has amused

himself through a great part of his pamphlet with drawing conclusions from his own suppositions, which he mistakes for facts, it certainly ought to plead with him, in some abatement of the obstinacy of our merchants, that they have good ground for knowing, that *gold does not possess the extensive influence he has given to it;—that the causes he assigns for the present advance in its price are not those which have produced that advance;—that no such depreciation as he discovers in our paper currency has really taken place;—and, lastly, that his new doctrine on exchanges merely furnishes some partial rules, excellent indeed in themselves, but often dependant on others, of which he appears to be totally ignorant.*

Before we proceed to the facts which go to confirm the better understanding of merchants on these subjects, it may be well to take some notice of what Mr. Huskisson says of the persons subsisting upon fixed incomes, who are, he affirms, the greatest sufferers from the present unexampled state of our affairs. In the former part of his pamphlet he violently

sounds the alarm for people of this description; and then, in page 129, he tells us that he purposely forbears to bring forward their sufferings again. This second thought, we may hope, was dictated by a sense of the mischievous tendency of what he had before advanced on that subject, and any feeling of this sort will be sharpened for him to a most poignant degree, when better information shall have brought to the conviction of Mr. Huskisson that the violent alarm he first sounded for those people was not only injudicious, but false. He was aware, probably, that among sufferers of this description there are very few to be found at all likely to comprehend the subtle and fallacious manner in which he endeavours to establish the fact of a depreciation in our paper currency; but when they find that a sensible man, who in his pamphlet touches in a masterly manner some general points, more open to the understanding of all, tells them likewise, *on that point*, that they may be sure the country has been going on, and still con-

tinues, cheating them, by bad management, of 15 per cent. of their income, Mr. Huskisson can hardly be so blind as not to see that a great majority of that class may, perhaps, coincide with him in opinion, and more especially if he is correct in his assumption, that *they* are the people on whom the desire of Buonaparte to annihilate this country has borne harder than on any other class.

There is not a subject on which a man ought to be more cautious in giving his opinion to the public, before having most critically examined all its principal bearings, than the present, on the depreciation of our paper currency; and it is, therefore, the more extraordinary that a gentleman of Mr. Huskisson's attainments should have shewn himself to the public on such a subject, before, if we may judge from his pamphlet, he had taken at all into consideration some of its leading features. One point, however, he has clearly established, and that is, his determination to stand by the Report of the Bullion-Committee, of which, unfortunately for

himself, he was a leader. The whole nation knows that the return of cash-payments at the Bank is essentially connected with our prosperity, and must be effected as soon as the cause which produced the suspension shall cease. We know too, that, on the return of our commerce to a more natural state, when we shall begin again to pay, in a great measure, for our imports by our exports, and, consequently, without the assistance of exported bullion, we shall again have plenty of gold in this country; but the knowledge of these facts will not induce us to join with Mr. Huskisson and the Bullion-Committee in adopting wild measures for the hopeless purpose of securing these advantages prematurely.

The present remarks are intended principally for such as, not being in the habit nor having the means of deciding on the merits of productions like that of Mr. Huskisson, may have been led to conclude that he *must* be right because his sentiments are introduced with all the charms of composition, but who may still

wish to see a few plain facts stated on the subject, though in less pleasing language.

Mr. Huskisson may be indebted for some of his subsequent mistakes to that into which he has fallen at his outset: he has been misinformed as to the false relative value which he says some people here attach to gold, and to bank-paper. In proof of the truth of his opinion on the prevalence of this public error, he gives us some extracts from the evidence of an intelligent merchant, Mr. Chambers, on his examination before the Bullion-Committee; but if Mr. Huskisson had well understood the bearings of that evidence, he would have seen that it goes in the teeth of the very persuasion which he thinks it may help to establish on our minds. Mr. Huskisson's own words are these:—

"There are people who reason as if "they had persuaded themselves that "bank-paper is the real and fixed measure "of all commodities, and that *gold* is only "one of the articles of which, in common "with others, the value is to be ascer-

" tained, by a reference to this *invariable* " *standard and universal equivalent*, bank- " paper." Then Mr. Huskisson brings the evidence of Mr. Chambers, which, in his opinion, proves, that what he has stated is really the opinion of many. Now, it seems almost impossible not to see that his evidence goes to contradict what Mr. Huskisson thinks it proves, and sets the value of bank-paper in a proper light. From Mr. Huskisson's account we are naturally led to suppose, too, that many others besides Mr. Chambers were to be found with the same absurd persuasion on their minds, but it may safely be affirmed, that not a man of them has yet appeared. We have heard, indeed, from Mr. Huskisson himself of *one* who thinks *gold* to be *that invariable standard and universal equivalent*, and who wishes to prevail on the public to think the same, though it would be impossible for the merchants of this country to ground their operations on a more ruinous basis than the belief that the price of gold must in so great a degree govern the price of every

other article. It is fraught with so much absurdity that one might hope to make a convert of Mr. Huskisson himself, if he had not a bias to support the doctrine by which the Committee was prevailed on to make their erroneous report on bullion. Unprejudiced people, however, must see that the price of gold, though in a less degree, is subject to change in common with every other article of our commerce; and, whilst their own experience and the faithful reports of their predecessors furnish them with so many proofs that none of the necessaries, and few of the luxuries, of life are or ever have been so affected in price by the fluctuating value of gold, Mr. Huskisson's endeavours to alarm the country on this score will not, we may reasonably hope, produce the mischief which they would be well calculated to effect, if addressed to a people among whom none were to be found more experienced in the subject than himself.

Mr. Huskisson is very incorrect in the conclusions he draws from the evidence

of Mr. Chambers before the Bullion-Committee, when he gave that Committee a short but comprehensive hint to prevent their falling into the mistakes which he saw Mr. Huskisson was preparing for them. Not appearing to understand the tendency of that evidence,* Mr. Huskisson exclaims, "*These answers, to "my understanding at least, completely "give up the whole case.*" But, to the understanding of others, they will still go to establish the case he wants to see given up. As bank-paper, when tendered for payment, bears the value of our gold currency, and as this gold coin, when melted down, could never be offered as a lawful payment for bank-paper, whether the price of gold were high or low, Mr. Chambers was perfectly correct in telling the gentlemen of the Bullion-Committee, that therefore the standard value of bank-paper might as well be calculated from the value of any other article as from that of the metal, considered as a commodity, on which our coins are stamped. But this

* *Vide* Appendix for Mr. Chambers's evidence.

sensible reply, instead of assisting Mr. Huskisson, led him to suppose, that, as Mr. Chambers would not admit his monstrous conclusion, that *gold was the invariable standard and universal equivalent for every other article*, he must therefore be one of those who thought that bank-paper was *that invariable standard and universal equivalent for every other article:* —that is to say, because Mr. Chambers *disclaimed* one absurd proposition, Mr. Huskisson insists that he must *approve* another still more absurd, and of the same tendency. Mr. Huskisson often affects to give strength to his problems, by talking to us in a mathematical tone; but apparently forgets that the peculiar character of mathematical reasoning is to make every step display connection between the data and the conclusions.

Mr. Huskisson scarcely notices the first and principal cause of the temporary check to issues of cash from the Bank in discharge of their notes; nor does he make account of it either in his proposal to let loose for exportation what cash still re-

mains in the Bank. That first and principal cause for sending no more gold into circulation was the extraordinary impulse our cash received to find its way abroad. This circumstance determined us to hold what remained of our cash, until the exchanges should return with our commerce to their natural state, and till the former, compared with the prices of gold both here and abroad, should no longer so encourage the exportation of any additional gold we might put in circulation as to make the exportation unavoidable. But Mr. Huskisson thinks it a folly to suppose, that, when we saw our gold going abroad so fast, we were providing some remedy for the evil, by ceasing to send more gold into circulation. He thinks, on the contrary, though our merchants will not allow it, that, if orders were at once given to the Bank to resume their cash-payments, without waiting for such a change of circumstances as may render a change of system expedient or practicable, we should have a greater plenty of gold in this country; though the merchants think otherwise. He cannot

bear they should bring forward against his new mercantile code of laws any arguments drawn from their deceitful old balance of trade, or from any other balances to which they have hitherto been erroneously looking for instruction in making their calculations. He wants them to look a little to his new mode of striking balances, whence they will see, that the more we lessen our stock of gold by exportation, the larger will be our remaining stock on hand. But he thinks them so blinded by their prejudices that they will not even consent to avail themselves of this famous receipt of his for drawing plenty out of scarcity itself, nor give up their old-fashioned persuasion, that, if we send all our gold abroad, we shall have none of it left at home. Mr. Huskisson seems to suppose, that the Bank might directly begin coining gold enough, not only for our home-circulation, but likewise for the purpose of bringing down the price of gold itself, and of supplying us with that metal besides, in order to pay with it our large balances due to the con-

tinent, and thus bring our exchanges to their natural state. He is so thoroughly persuaded of the strength and correctness of his reasoning on this point, that he even advises us, in pages 96 and 97 of his pamphlet, to set aside our prejudices about the exportation of guineas, and let what we have remaining go after the rest to the continent, to be exchanged for articles there which we more want, and at once resume our coinage. There can be no doubt that all the gold we can let loose for exportation would find its way abroad, whilst our commerce remains in its present unnatural state; but it is equally evident, that, though the Bank should have, as Mr. Huskisson suspects, a more than ordinary stock of uncoined gold in their possession, and were to assist the smugglers by sending it all into circulation in coin, still there would not be a supply equal to a fourth of the demand for exportation alone. With respect to our receiving more gold from abroad, he does not seem to be aware *that we must pay for any we import, and, therefore, that*

none of what we receive in future can possibly have the effect he supposes on our exchanges; still, with a single stroke of the pen, Mr. Huskisson provides plenty of gold for our home-circulation, even immediately after the want of it shall have been encreased by his proposed limitation of our paper currency; raises, at the same time, a much larger supply of gold for exportation, and for the purpose of bringing our exchanges to their regular course, (an effect which could not nearly be produced, however, by all the gold we can now find for exportation); and then, as if these promised advantages were not of themselves sufficient to make us follow his advice, he flatters us with another equally whimsical. In consequence of our creating thus, as he recommends, a greater demand for gold in this country than was ever known before, he tells us that we shall bring down the price of it here. This is one of his boasted new discoveries; and we shall presently have to notice some others of them that are of still more consequence.

It is well known that the great rise we have seen here in the price of gold has been principally produced by the present state of our exchanges, which has made it for the purpose of those who are indebted to the continent to lay their hands on, and export all the gold they can pick up to pay those debts, rather than pay them by purchasing bills on the continent, which, at the present rate of our exchanges, now cost so dear. Mr. Huskisson through the whole of his pamphlet has lost sight of this principal cause of the present rise of gold, and therefore it is that his conclusions are as defective as were ever drawn from false premises. It appears, however, that he has prevailed on the Bullion-Committee to believe with him that this rise in the price of gold, as well as the unfavourable state of our exchanges, has been principally produced by an excess of our paper currency, and by the suspension of cash-payments at the Bank. He might as easily prevail on a man well versed in those matters to believe that our paper

currency had likewise produced a great effect on the tides. It is obvious that, by the suspension of those payments, the price of gold has actually been prevented from rising still higher, and that neither what he calls the excess, nor the suspension alluded to, have hitherto had any, nor could possibly have had the violent effect he supposes on our exchanges.* The substitution of paper currency for cash was occasioned by the scarcity of bullion, and not the scarcity by the substitution: Mr. Huskisson has evidently mistaken effect for cause. Mr. Chambers could have given, if it had been necessary, a thousand other articles besides indigo and cloth, which offer as fair a standard for the value of Bank-of-England notes as uncoined gold; but, if this be the case, says Mr. Huskisson, I could

* Mr. Huskisson makes the supposed depreciation of bank-paper amount to 15 per cent. The actual loss on the exchanges is nearly 30 per cent. If this loss be a consequence of the depreciation, whence the excess of the loss, and why has the consequence been so tardy in following the cause?

wish to learn what *is* the real standard for bank-paper. *Our sterling coins* are the real standard for it, not melted gold, of which the price is constantly on the change; our coins and bank-paper keep regularly to one standard, and are the measure by which we find the worth of all other property, which will, according to circumstances, be represented by more or less of that measure, without any reference to the intrinsic value of the measure itself. Though the price of that metal has now risen so high, we can many of us remember that, thirty years since, when the gold in a guinea melted was worth only twenty-one shillings, that guinea was still worth twice as much as it is now for the purchase of other articles. The price of gold, therefore, instead of governing the price of all other articles, happens, unfortunately for Mr. Huskisson, to be much more governed by them. It would have been well if, in his vain search for the standard of bank-paper, he had taken a little into consideration what in so eminent a degree affects its

value,—Credit; but he talks of the worth of bank-notes, as if that credit which is deservedly given to any bill of exchange, and without which such bill would not be current, were not to be at all considered in the value of a Bank-of-England note, to which he will allow none of the properties of a bill of exchange, nor suffer the standard value of it to be settled by any other consideration than the price of uncoined gold. This is the great point on which he invites us to throw off our prejudices and take *him* for our guide: our merchants may soon expect to see him appear on the exchange, with a new standard for what paper they may most safely take, and there can be no doubt of his being well received there; but he will have again the mortification to find that some of those obstinate fellows will still be guided by their own opinion.

Is it not obvious that, as the value of our bank-paper always keeps pace with that of our gold coin here, and as this coin, when melted, cannot be offered as a law-

ful payment for it, whether the price of gold be high or low, that, therefore, the standard value of bank-paper may as well be collected from the value of any other article as from that of uncoined gold? The current fixt value of our coins, therefore, cannot be expected always to agree in relative value with any article, the price of which is found to be constantly on the change. It is thence evident, from the fluctuating value of the metal contained in the coins of this country, that it must be worth sometimes more and sometimes less, as a merchandize, than those coins represent in our currency. It is certainly much to be wished that the metal contained in our different coins should be worth neither more nor less than the sums they represent; but that is a desideratum evidently unattainable for a long period in any commercial country.

On the export of bullion the following points may claim attention.—We have been under the necessity of sending abroad a great quantity of it for our armies, and for other public services; and

it is therefore of some consequence that we should not deceive ourselves as to the effect produced by bullion so exported. We may rest assured that though we had not exported bullion for those services, still all the cash that has been destined for them must, if sent into circulation, whilst our exchanges were on their present footing, have been exported by others for other purposes; the whole profit on such exportation of it would *then* have gone to the individual exporters; whereas, *now* our government has secured a considerable portion of that profit, and has thus saved for the country at large the loss that would otherwise have been incurred on what they have so sent off in bullion, and which must, if not so sent, have been supplied in the expensive way in which we see cash provided for our armies, through our government-agents at Lisbon and Cadiz, where, in consequence of the supplies they are still obliged to raise, the exchanges must remain very considerably against us, and would have been still

more unfavourable if our bullion, thus exported, had not lessened the amount of supplies to be furnished by those agents.

It is not here necessary to enter into the causes which constitue gold the most convenient article by which to measure the worth of every other; but we may safely say, that it would be nearly as absurd to affirm, if unfortunately we were to lose all our old measures for quantity in the country, that therefore a large share of all the property of our merchants and shopkeepers would thence become nothing worth, as it is in Mr. Huskisson to contend, that, if our gold coin should disappear, the rest of our property would also be nothing worth: for, though the value of our gold is in itself much greater than that of our measures for quantity, still the worth of both together is trifling, when compared with the rest of our riches, and does not amount to 1 per cent. on the value of our whole stock of property. Mr. Huskisson does not scruple to tell us, however, that the whole of this

stock will become of no value, when we can no longer take measure of it by gold. This man of gold has not even condescended to admit his poorer relations, silver and copper, as partners, to the extent of their capital, in the famous establishment he wishes to mount.

To take a comprehensive and accurate view of our exchanges requires much attention, combination, and experience; but little of either is necessary to discover that Mr. Huskisson has overlooked some of the first principles of the inquiry. In the able and very interesting letters of Mr. Hill to Mr. Thompson, one of the gentlemen of the Bullion-Committee, he might have found a masterly sketch of the general question; and may find, too, some valuable hints in a short pamphlet of Mr. Charles Lyne, a very experienced merchant, who unites, it is said, much knowledge on the questions of exchange and bullion with much practice in both. Mr. Lyne, indeed, like the writer of these Remarks, little understands, and still less affects, the arts of composition, and may,

on that account, find no favour with those who look only for literary skill in the publications they review. Mr. Lyne did not profess either, nor does the writer of these Remarks, to take a general view of the subject, but in his brief touches on a few points, particularly those of exchange and bullion, he evinced, that, though Mr. Huskisson and the Committee had so decidedly made up their minds on the business before them, they had yet to learn some of its principal bearings.

The workings of our old balance of trade have turned out so perplexing for Mr. Huskisson, and have appeared to him so subversive of the conclusions which we suppose may be drawn from that balance, as to lead him to the belief that such principles of reasoning will now have had sentence passed on them, and that no one will ever presume to adopt them again. The introduction of bullion into the list of our exports, to an extent formerly unknown, has doubtless so influenced the relative amount of our exports and imports as to give the appearance of a

change in its results; but, when it is considered that, in our present situation, we have been driven to immense exports, from which neither cash, nor bill nor barter payments, could be expected in return, the errors of which Mr. Huskisson complains, in the principles so generally acknowledged by others, must appear to be all of his own creation; whilst those principles of which he hopes to hear no more, have gone on, and must continue working, as true as time, to the balance of all our mercantile exports and imports, in return for which we make or receive payments in barter, bills, or cash. If there be any point to which Mr. Hill has not done justice in his letters to Mr. Thompson, it may perhaps be this. It would be an idle task here to examine, if it were in our power, whether the exports referred to were all necessary; but it is very certain that large exports of the same kind must be necessary in future, and that we must make our arrangements for meeting their natural effects. The assertion in Mr. Hill's first letter, that we are

now placed in the most unfavourable of the three situations, in one of which he describes us as being at all times placed, with respect to the effects of our commercial concerns, must be admitted by every one; and it may fairly be presumed besides, that, whenever the moment shall arrive for the return of our commerce to its natural state, which, sooner or later, must take place, our situation will become incomparably the best in those respects that was ever provided for any people.

Mr. Huskisson, after going through the principal points of the new order of things he wants to establish, proceeds to examine the effects that would probably be produced by it on different descriptions of men. But, when speaking of the merchants, page 141, he unfortunately omits to notice the principal objections to his system, so far as they are concerned. He is perfectly right, however, in declaring, that the business of a merchant is to buy cheap and sell dear: and we are bound to thank him for this piece of information,

though several of us had found out the secret before; but we can send him no thanks for the advice he gives us in a very fine flourish at the end of the same sentence, because, however strange it may appear to him, it will be difficult to find people in this country who have ever looked for any of the sort of profit against which he has the goodness so feelingly to caution us. That profit could only arise from an issue in this country of GOVERNMENT-PAPER on the fatal principle we have seen adopted on the continent; and if Mr. Huskisson will but send his book to Spain or Portugal, where much trick of the sort against which he cautions us has been practised, he will find many there who might be improved by his advice, and would return him, no doubt, the merited thanks.

Last of all, Mr. Huskisson proceeds to examine the effects which he thinks his new arrangements would produce on the affairs of our government. He seems confident that, neither in the raising of our taxes, nor in the negotiation of our loans, nor in the

general state of our finances, should we be at all inconvenienced by following the course he so strongly recommends. Though these assertions appear to be equally contradictory with some of his mercantile conclusions, the writer does not pretend to follow Mr. Huskisson in this inquiry, lest he should be drawn on to offer opinions where he has not the means of sufficient information: the political part of the question he accordingly leaves for those who are competent to the discussion.

Mr. Huskisson informs us, in his Preface, that men of ingenuity, well acquainted with the point he undertakes to discuss, will be able to supply illustrations more apt than any he has been able to furnish, and that the constant attention given by him to the multiplied duties of the public situations it has been his lot to fill was not compatible with his following up, in all its possible bearings, this other subject of so much extent and intricacy, without a more than ordinary degree of applica-

tion. That application no doubt has been given, and more, it appears, was still desirable before he undertook to advise men, whose lives have been passed in studying the question he has taken up so recently, to make no account of their own experience as to the best grounds for future operations in this department of commercial concerns, but follow *him* on those subjects, though his other avocations have not allowed him sufficient time to examine them thoroughly. In his Preface Mr. Huskisson talks loudly, too, of the principles he recommends; but in his pamphlet one finds him chiefly employed in contradicting, without any proof in his favour, the principles of other men, founded on the experience of former times, and supported by the experience, as well as practice, of the present day. Mr. Huskisson expresses great astonishment that the governors of the Bank of England should have made no account of his conclusions, as to the extent and consequent value of their notes; but it should be

considered that those gentlemen had a duty of their own to perform, and that they would have been unworthy the place they held if they had taken his conclusions for their guide, instead of attending to all the bearings of the subject. An impartial man, on reading Mr. Huskisson's pamphlet, can hardly fail to see, though Mr. Huskisson himself seems unconscious of it, that his mind, at the time of writing it, was indisposed to admit any information on the depreciation of our paper currency, but such as went to favour the Report of the Bullion-Committee. On a closer investigation he might, perhaps, be surprised to find his conclusions so much at variance with some of the leading principles of the question. The total amount of what may be fairly collected from Mr. Huskisson's attempt to establish the depreciation of our paper currency is shortly this:—that whenever, by whatever cause, our uncoined gold becomes much scarcer than it was at the time of settling our mint-price for gold, it must likewise be-

come much dearer, and that on all such occasions Bank-of-England notes must represent much less weight of gold uncoined than they represented when the price for our standard gold was lower; whilst all our gold coins must at the same epochs, and for the same reasons, contain more value *when such value is solely measured by the actual price of uncoined gold*, than they stand for in our currency. These are conclusions in which all the world will agree; but it does not thence at all follow that the value of our paper currency must, or can, or ought, at all to fluctuate with the price of uncoined gold. If the exchanges had not, from obvious causes, been so much against us, and so much gold had not, on that account, been sent off to pay our debts to the continent, we should not have seen a light guinea when melted worth more than twenty-one shillings, or more than a heavy guinea that could not be melted: nor, because we see it now worth more, can we conclude with Mr. Huskisson, that the rise of price in gold

does *not* proceed in a great measure from what could not fail to produce it, the excess of our mercantile imports beyond our exports; or that it *does* proceed from a cause which can have but little effect on it. No man can deny, however, that Mr. Huskisson has lately given himself much trouble on this subject, and, as his talents are acknowledged by all, it is the more to be lamented, that, from his having spurned at some leading points, which condemn the Report of the Bullion-Committee, his labours should have ended so unsatisfactorily. When the current value of our gold coins was established by law, it was settled with reference to what, at that time, was the value of gold at our mint, and not with reference to what it might be worth at any future time. It appears to some people, whenever the price of gold becomes higher or lower than our mint-price, that it should not be left to find its own way back to that standard, as nearly as the change of times will admit, without legislative interference; whilst others, conceiving that we had

better not interfere at all, because it is difficult to ascertain and attach the proper relative importance to the different springs by which the article has hitherto so well regulated itself, are therefore of opinion, that we should take very particular care not to affect any of those springs by extraneous pressure. We need not now endeavour to shew which of these two opinions is best founded; but all of both will agree in reprobating the opinion advanced by Mr. Huskisson and the members of the Bullion-Committee, "*That when too much of any article has been exported from any country, it is* then *wise to give additional encouragement to further exportation.*"

Mr. Huskisson's reputation for financial and litererary knowledge is too well established to be aided by our suffrage; and, though we have attempted to expose what we consider to be the fallacy of his arguments on a subject less within the scope of his habitual attention, we do not presume to question the purity of his motives. Should a closer inquiry into that subject

lead his mind to a different conclusion, Mr. Huskisson will doubtless, from the influence of the same motives, afford his countrymen the satisfaction of knowing that a proposal respecting our currency, which, if adopted under the present circumstances, might essentially promote the views of our enemies, has no longer the sanction of his high authority.

A MERCHANT.

APPENDIX.

Evidence of Mr. Chambers before the Bullion-Committee, (p. 102 of the Report.)

1. *Question.*—At the mint-price of standard gold in this country, how much gold does a Bank-of-England note for one pound represent?

Answer.—5 dwts. 3 grains.

2. *Question.*—At the present market-price of £4 : 12 per. oz. how much gold do you get for a bank-note of one pound?

Answer.—4 dwts. 8 gr.

3. *Question.*—Do you consider a Bank-of-England note for one pound, under these circumstances, as exchangeable in gold for what it represents of that metal?

Answer.—I do not conceive gold to be a fairer standard for Bank-of-England notes than indigo or broad-cloth.

4. *Question* 3 repeated.

Answer.—If it represents twenty shillings of that metal, at the coinage price, it is not.

THE END.

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