

137-80

0 106
5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 5

1
Dear Sir
Paper Money for carrying on the War in America was first issued by Congress in 1775. It sustained its nominal value for one year only. The issues were in such rapid succession for 5 years, that after the first year it began to depreciate: the depreciation increasing in proportion to the sums issued, till 150 paper Dollars were barely equivalent to one Spanish Milled Dollar. The amount issued by Congress was nearly 200 hundred Millions of Dollars: - The amount issued by the separate States is not easy to be ascertained, but it was very considerable, & while the tender Laws existed, Debts were in some places paid at the rate of 300 for one Dollar.

In 1777 the Congress passed a Law making the paper money a legal tender, which had but a temporary effect, & history says it accelerated the depreciation.

In 1780 Congress resolved to call in by Taxes, & exchange all the paper Bills theretofore emitted, at the rate of 20 for one. It to issue 10 millions of new paper, at the same rate; & at the same time recommended the several States to revise & amend their tender Laws so as to conduce to the justice of the State of the paper currency: they also fixed a scale of depreciation from 1777 to 1780 for money loaned, - but all was unavailing: the depreciation rapidly increased till 1781, when the paper Money became in fact of no value. It ceased to circulate; & its extinction occasioned no convulsion in any part of the country, as specie again made its appearance sufficient for the current circulation.

The first emission of paper had no effect but to occasion the disappearance of specie. It was the constant by increasing quantity, aided by counterfeited paper, introduced by the British that occasioned the depreciation; & the Laws devised to remedy the evil.

are said to have increased, or were followed by an increase of it. Gordon in his history says "The consequences were most ruinous. The depreciation of the tender Lawrs were the bane of Society. All Classes became Monopolists & Speculators. The morals of the people were corrupted, & the ties of honour, blood, friendship & justice were violated by the payment of old Debts with depreciated Paper Money."

This is a short, but the best sketch I can give you of American Paper Money. I desired Mr. J. Cooke to send you a copy of Paines Decline & Fall of the English System of Finance, in which Hothorn. I thought you might find some remarks not inapplicable, to our present difficulty, & as I think dangerous State of public affairs

You may at any time say dear Sir, be assured of any information in my power given you

Yours
J. Bullitt
Chapman
13 July 1811

En général, on n'a qu'une idée très-fausse de la richesse, & conséquemment du meilleur état possible d'une nation. Nombre de gens, par le terme de richesse, n'entendent autre chose que de l'argent; ils se persuadent que l'argent est le principe & la mesure de la prospérité d'une nation. Il est pourtant vrai, & je l'ai déjà fait observer, qu'avec plus d'argent on peut être plus pauvre. On ne consomme point l'argent en nature; une richesse en argent ne se réalise que par l'échange qu'on en fait contre des choses usuelles: cette richesse n'est donc point une richesse absolue, une richesse par elle-même; elle n'est au contraire qu'une richesse relative, une richesse dont la valeur dépend absolument de la quantité des choses usuelles qu'on peut se procurer en échange pour son argent.

Une autre preuve encore que l'argent n'est ni le principe, ni la mesure de la prospérité d'une nation, c'est que l'argent ne multiplie point les choses usuelles; mais les choses usuelles multiplient l'argent, ou du moins lui impriment un mouvement qui tient lieu de sa multiplication: un seul écu qui change de main 100 fois, équivalant à 100 écus, & rend les mêmes services; car il est parvenu successivement à représenter une valeur de 100 écus en marchandises. Qu'a-t-il donc fallu pour que les ventes de ces 100 parties de marchandises aient eu lieu? Il a fallu ces 100 parties de marchandises, la liberté du mouvement nécessaire à leur consommation, & un seul écu. L'emploi qu'on a fait de ce seul écu, à l'occasion de ces 100 différentes ventes successives, pouvoit même se répéter pour 1000,

pour

pour beaucoup plus encore; & son utilité sera toujours la même, tant qu'il se trouvera dans le cas de servir de gage intermédiaire aux consommateurs qui auront des marchandises à échanger entre eux. Au moyen de ce seul écu & de 100 parties de marchandises, il s'est fait 100 ventes, 100 consommations, qui toutes ensemble ont valu 100 écus. Si l'on me dise à présent en quoi consistoit la richesse des 100 consommateurs qui ont fait ces consommations; si c'étoit dans le seul écu qu'un d'entre eux possédait, qui existe encore parmi eux, & qui n'a servi qu'à faciliter leurs échanges par sa circulation, ou si c'étoit dans les 100 parties de marchandises dont ils ont joui, & qui avoient pour eux une valeur réelle de 100 écus.

1. A Bank Note for one ^{Guinea}, or 21 Shillings is an engagement to pay ^{a portion of} ~~the~~ gold of a given fineness, certified by the Bank Stamp, & ^{which} ~~the~~ ^{weight} of the ~~inscript~~ ^{inscript} of 5 ^{Two} 9 ³⁰ grains, ~~which must not~~ ^{must not} be diminished to less than 5 ^{Two} 8 ³⁰ grains, or in ~~the~~ ^{the} a portion not less than 4 ounces & a small fraction

2. A Bank Note can have no definite value but what it derives from the circumstance of its representing Gold or Silver, any more than a note promising to deliver one yard of Cloth on demand, & specifying the quality & the breadth of the Cloth, could have, independent of the value of the Cloth

Neither of these species of Notes are in themselves commodities: they are only engagements: - the one to furnish a specific quantity of Cloth of a given quality & breadth, & the other to furnish a specific quantity of Gold or Silver of a given fineness: - & the value of each in relation to

all Commodities must therefore be dependent upon, & ascertained by, the Value of that Commodity they respectively represent, in comparison with that of all other Commodities.

3. A Note promising to deliver a yard of Cloth of a given breadth & quality cannot attain a greater Value than the Value of the Cloth it can procure; neither can a Bank Note rise in Value above the Value of that portion of Gold or Silver, which those who issue it, promise to pay.

4. A Note promising to deliver on demand a yard of Cloth of a given quality & breadth must rise in Value, if there is a rise in the Value of the Cloth it represents: — so also a Bank Note which is an engagement to pay a portion of Gold or Silver on demand, must rise in Value proportionally as the Value of these metals increases.

5. A Note which can secure the delivery of a yard of Cloth of a given quality & breadth on demand, must always retain a Value in exchange with other Commodities, equal to a yard of Cloth, because things which are equal to one & the same thing are equal to one another: So also a Bank Note, whilst it can command the Gold or Silver it rep.

resents, must always retain a Value in exchange with other Commodities, equal to that portion of Gold or Silver, it represents, because things which are equal to one & the same thing, are equal to one another.

6. If therefore a yard of Cloth of a given quality & breadth cannot rise in Value, without a proportional rise in the Value of a Note which engages to deliver it; & if a Note which can secure the delivery of a yard of Cloth of a given quality & breadth, on demand, must always retain a Value in exchange with other Commodities equal to a yard of Cloth: — it follows that its being of less Value than a yard of Cloth when it cannot practically command the yard of Cloth must arise from this deficiency of power, & not from any increase in the Value of the Cloth, to which, independent of that defect of power, it must be equivalent.

So also if Gold or Silver cannot rise in Value without a proportional rise in the Value of a Note which engages to deliver a given quantity of them; & if a Bank Note, whilst it can command the Gold or Silver it represents, must always retain a Value in exchange with other Commodities equal to that portion of Gold or Silver it represents: — it follows that such a Note being of less Value, when it cannot practically command the Gold or Silver it represents, must arise from this deficiency in power, & not from any increase in the Value of the Gold or Silver, to which, independent of that

that defect of power, it must be equivalent

It may however be said, that it is not the value of the Cloth or of the Gold promised to be delivered that either gives value to, or defines the value of a note, engaging to pay a yard of Cloth or a given breadth & quality - or a quantity of Coin of a given weight & fineness.

That a Bank Note has value because the Bank is known in practice never to advance its Notes but for the purpose of facilitating real transactions; & that their value ought therefore properly to be considered as representing the value of the Commodities which form the basis of the transaction, that gave rise to their being issued. - & that at a time, when practically they cannot be converted into Coin on demand - Coin may rise in value, whilst Bank Notes remain stationary, representing that value in Commodities forming the basis of the transaction on which they were issued - which Gold & Silver had prior to the supposed rise of these Metals.

It must be ^{however} admitted that to infer what ^{the value of} ~~the~~ value would be in relation to any particular Commodity - from what it was at the time when Bank Notes & Coin were at par, is impossible, unless you could suppose that the value of

Commodities had become stationary, the ⁹ moment this supposed rise in the value of the Metals took place. - But this mode of considering the subject is advantageous for those who do not wish to follow the truth, by rendering what is very plain & obvious infinitely complicated & obscure. At all events however this doctrine instead of proving that the value of Bank Notes has not fallen, only tends to deprive them of the attribute of possessing a known value, which is not only a quality of money, but a characteristic indispensably necessary to qualify any thing to serve as money.

If Bank Notes are to be considered as representing the value of Commodities which form the basis of the transactions in consequence of which they were issued; - a Bank Note must either be regarded as representing a portion of the value of the specific Commodity, on the security of which it was issued; - or as deriving its value from the result of all the transactions which gave rise to the issue of these Notes.

First, If a Bank Note is to be regarded as representing the value of the particular Commodity, the transactions concerning which was the cause of its being issued; - as Notes may be issued to facilitate a transaction in Sugar or a transaction in grain; - the price of Sugar, subsequent to the issue, may fall, whilst the price of grain subsequent to the transaction may rise, - it follows, that a Bank Note representing the value of a portion of Sugar, must lose value, & that the Bank Note

representing the value of a portion of the grain, must acquire additional value — These notes therefore must be of various values; — & the holder cannot know the value of any particular note, without being acquainted with the transaction which gave rise to its being issued

Secondly, On the supposition that the Notes of the Banks of England do not acquire value from the particular transaction that occasioned their being issued, but from the result of the average of all the transactions which successively gave rise to the issue of their Notes; — the Value of a Bank Note must equally remain a secret to the person who receives it, as he cannot be acquainted with the data on which its value must be ascertained: — for its Value in that case must depend on a knowledge of the nature & extent of all the transactions on which Notes are issued, as well as on the sum total that is thrown into circulation, & the amount of what it would be expected for the Society to enjoy.

If Bank Notes are there
fore to be stated as deriving their
value, either from the Commodity
which forms the basis of the

This is und^{er} transaction on which they are issued^{ed}—
on being true, or from the mass of Commodities, or the
obvious, that security of which the total of Bank Notes
of a note prom^{ised} are supposed to be issued:—in either
case, they are divested of the characteristic
share:—the value of ten of paper is a known, definite value,
shares;—a without which nothing can perform
the value of the service required of money
twenty shares
of the Commo-
dity which cessity of the case, for a time, form an
formed the instrument of Exchange, in the absence
basis of all of all other;—but they must be a
the transac-
tion, on very imperfect one;—for they can
where the
Bank had
issued notes, the medium of circulation of other Countries,
it could so as to ascertain their proportionate
have no value;—nor can they afford to the
specific holder who is ignorant of their value
or assign a practical standard by which the
able value, value of Commodities in general may
—but it with certainty be either measured or
expressed

expressed. It may however be said, that though Bank notes derive their security from the value of the Commodities, which form the basis of the transaction on which they are issued. yet each note really deriving the Characteristic necessary to constitute it money; - viz. that of being a measure of value, from the circumstance of the quantity of Coin it promises to pay.

even it promises a ~~paper~~ ^{gold} ~~branch~~ ^{note} is in other words to say that the value of the branch note is dependant on the value of the gold it purports to represent - & therefore would subject branch notes to the con-

conclusion derived from the reasoning that has been used to prove they are depreciated

It appears therefore that it may with certainty be inferred, that if the value of Bank Notes is supposed to be derived from representing the Coin they promise to pay on demand, the difference of value between Coin & Notes of the Bank of England must arise from the depreciation of the latter;— I further state that those who state that the value of the Bank Notes does not originate from the value of the Coin they promise to pay, but from Commodities which form the basis of transactions on which forgetting they are issued, deprive them by what a Bank Note is such statement of the Characteristic necessary to qualify them to act as money;— for they inevitably render their value uncertain I place it on a ground which must make it unknown to the holder;— under which circumstances they cannot be considered as a practical Standard, either for measuring or expressing the value of Commodities

	1805	
36,320	2,905,600	2,905,600
800	32,000	64,000
30,800	823,466	4,117,330
15,130	302,600	3,026,000
<u>83,130</u>	<u>4,063,666</u>	<u>10,112,930</u>

	1806	
35,125	2,010,000	2,010,000
1,653	66,120	132,240
31,235	832,935	4,164,665
16,155	323,100	3,231,000
<u>84,160</u>	<u>4,032,155</u>	<u>10,337,905</u>

N ^o of Stamps	1807	
2,146,142 at £1.	—	£2,146,142
60,709 — 2	—	121,570
403,102 — 5	—	2,015,510
144,039 — 10	—	1,440,390
<u>2,834,072</u>		<u>6,123,626</u>

Sum total that appears to have been issued in the last three years £26,500,000

	1808	
1,892,920 at £1.	—	1,892,920
70,393 — 2	—	156,786
667,071 — 5	—	3,335,355
262,659 — 10	—	2,626,590
<u>2,901,051</u>		<u>8,011,659</u>

Sum total that appears
to have been issued in
the three last years
£24,400,000

1809

5,902,031	a £1	5,902,031
200,844	— 2.	417,600
900,974	— 5	4,904,870
402,784	— 10.	4,027,040
<u>7,574,633</u>		<u>15,332,429</u>

Sum total that appears
to have been issued in
the last three years
£29,400,000

1810

3,310,074	a £1	3,310,074
115,336	a 2	230,672
720,101	a 5	3,640,905
242,663	a 10	2,426,630
<u>4,405,054</u>		<u>9,617,081</u>

Sum total that appears
to have been issued in
the last three years
£33,000,000

Total Value of Notes Stam-
ped during the 3 years en-
ding 1st January 1811 — £32,961,169

Deduct total value of Notes
stamped for 3 years ending
1st January 1809 — 24,473,184

Increase of Country Bank
Notes — 8,407,905

Add increase of Notes of
the Bank of England — 5,007,286

14,375,271

Copy

Glasgow

I write a very few lines (being just setting out for Edin) in consequence of what I have seen in a debate in the House of Peers in this days paper. The Scotch Banks are not protected; but forbearance in the public is equivalent to protection, & of consequence the export of paper is the same in Scotland as it is in England. The depreciation of course is the same, so that there can be no difference upon the Exchange; - but there is an additional reason for this, & for the equality of depreciation in the two Countries. The long established practice here for checking the expenses of every particular Bank is, that every Bank in Scotland, by itself, or its agent, shall twice a week exchange with every other Bank, the notes they hold of each other - The balances of these Exchanges are settled in London - by Drafts at par upon London. These formerly were equivalent to gold, but are now equivalent to Bank of England notes - Our currency is of course, by this mode of settling the balances, made convertible into Bank of England notes

& its value fixed by them. If Guineas were demanded here - but which I do not believe our Courts at present would support, this state of things would be changed. The Exchange would then change also, & the balances between the Banks, if made payable in London paper, must be liquidated at a very different course of exchange

I am &

Dugald Buchanan

Glasgow

8 July 1811

No. of Banks to be each
of the following places

1793	1422
94	882
95	748
96	826
97	941
98	757
99	605
1800	861
01	937
02	966
03	1031
04	957
05	940
06	1084
07	1216

Table showing the value of Silver Coin from one Shilling to twenty-one Shillings in Penny weights & Grains of pure & Standard Gold and in ounces Pennyweights and Grains of pure and Standard Silver

Shillings	Pure Gold	Standard Gold	Pure Silver	Standard Silver
One	1.5.65	1.6.164	1.3.13.935	1.3.20.903
Two	1.11.30	1.12.327	1.7.3.870	1.7.17.806
Three	1.16.95	1.18.491	1.10.17.805	1.11.14.709
Four	1.22.60	1.24.655	1.14.7.740	1.15.11.602
Five	1.28.25	1.30.818	1.17.21.675	1.19.8.515
Six	1.34.40	1.36.982	1.21.11.610	1.23.5.418
Seven	1.40.55	1.43.146	1.25.1.515	1.27.2.321
Eight	1.47.10	1.49.310	1.29.15.480	1.31.23.204
Nine	1.53.25	1.55.473	1.33.5.415	1.35.14.109
Ten	1.59.40	2.0.637	1.37.19.350	1.39.17.030
Eleven	2.5.55	2.6.801	1.41.9.285	2.2.13.933
Twelve	2.12.10	2.13.965	2.2.23.220	2.6.10.836
Thirteen	2.18.25	2.19.129	2.6.13.155	2.10.7.739
Fourteen	2.24.40	2.25.292	2.10.3.090	2.14.4.642
Fifteen	2.30.55	2.31.456	2.13.17.025	2.18.1.545
Sixteen	2.37.10	2.38.619	2.17.6.960	2.22.12.428
Seventeen	2.43.25	2.44.783	2.21.20.895	2.26.19.313
Eighteen	2.49.40	2.50.946	2.25.10.830	2.30.16.218
Nineteen	2.55.55	2.56.1110	2.29.2.765	2.34.13.139
Twenty	3.2.10	3.3.273	2.33.11.700	2.38.10.060
Twenty One	3.8.25	3.9.438	2.37.15.635	2.42.6.963
Twenty Two	3.14.40	3.15.602	2.41.18.570	2.46.3.866
Twenty Three	3.20.55	3.21.766	2.45.8.505	2.50.9.769
Twenty Four	3.26.10	3.27.930	2.49.22.440	2.54.12.672
Twenty Five	3.32.25	3.33.1094	2.53.12.375	2.58.18.575
Twenty Six	3.38.40	3.39.1258	2.57.2.310	3.2.15.478
Twenty Seven	3.44.55	3.45.1422	2.61.16.245	3.6.12.381
Twenty Eight	3.50.10	3.51.306	2.65.6.180	3.10.9.284
Twenty Nine	3.56.25	3.57.470	2.69.20.115	3.14.6.187
Thirty	4.0.40	4.1.634	2.73.10.050	3.18.3.090
Thirty One	4.6.55	4.2.798	2.77.23.985	3.22.9.993

SILVER CURRENCY.

The Order of the Day was then read for the House resolving itself into a Committee on the Message of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, respecting the issue of a new Silver Currency. Mr. W. P. P. regretted that at that late hour he was obliged to address the Committee, but he trusted the importance of the question would be an apology for his taking up their time, and he pledged himself to be as concise as possible. That a new Silver Currency was absolutely called for he believed no person could doubt, and he was also confident that the Committee would concur with him in thinking the present to be a most auspicious period for issuing that Currency. A long and sanguinary war had now been terminated, and the days of peace had once more revisited our land. By the Bank Restriction Bill, which was limited to two years, Government had given that respectable body time to prepare, and indeed no person present could doubt it was requisite cash payments should then be resumed. Our Silver Currency was at present very bad, and indeed it was impossible to decide on what principle it could be corrected, unless we considered, first, the present standard measure of value, and secondly, what that standard should be. At present he forbore entering into discussion on the pernicious consequences of having the two metals as a standard, aware that these consequences had already been pretty severely felt by the country. The first gold which was coined, was in the reign of Edward the 3d, and from that time downwards it became more common. Mr. Locke complained that the country had been hurt by having two standards. In 1663, the guinea was 40s. by the mint ordinance, though it kept at 30s. in the market. In 1695, it was by Act of Parliament declared that it should not give more than 25s. and in one month after, its value was fixed at 22s. The coinage of seven millions in 1695 had nearly disappeared in 1717, and Sir Isaac Newton was applied to for suggesting a plan to prevent the currency leaving the country. That illustrious philosopher blamed the high rate of Gold, which then was 21s. and 6d. and proposed to fix the guinea at 21s. which was adopted by his Majesty, and a proclamation issued to that effect. During last century, only 400,000 in Silver was coined, and only 60,000 during his present Majesty's Reign. After a minute detail of the various circumstances attending the currency since 1774, the Right Honourable Gentleman observed, that he certainly thought as Gold now was the present standard, it should be kept at the same value in fineness and quantity. He disliked the idea of coining gold twenty shilling pieces, as leading to much confusion, on account of their near value to guineas. There had been sixty-four millions of Gold coined in this present reign, but God only knew what had become of it. [A laugh.] The pound troy was at present 62 shillings. He did not wish the fineness of our silver to be altered, because this would lead to the immediate ruin of the country. Let silver be made a legal tender to a certain extent, for example he should say to 42s. It should only be reduced to such an extent as would prevent its quitting the country. For example, if the pound troy was reduced to 60s. it would not debase the coinage any way, but would merely reduce its weight. A good circulation would thus be procured, better than had been for many years. He was afraid he tired the Committee with this detail, but it was necessary to be somewhat minute. [Hear, hear.]—He would now come to the most difficult and painful part of the inquiry, and he begged the further indulgence of the Committee. [Hear! Hear!]—It was impossible to know the exact amount of the present currency of the country. In 1805 the then Lord Liverpool had stated the circulation of the country to be 2,700,000, and of that sum about 1,000,000 were in half-crowns. This statement he (Mr. W. P. P.) questioned very much as scarce a half-crown was now to be seen. In King William's time the whole amount of circulation was 5,000,000, of which 4,000,000 was clipped money. Since 1811 the Mint has issued 3,400,000 in tokens. The circulation this moment could not exceed two millions and has deteriorated 30 per cent.

With respect to the probable loss which Government would sustain upon the Coin to be called in, he did not think it could be less than 30 per cent. The more rapid the operation was, the better it would be. In the great coinage which took place last century, thirty millions of pieces were coined in eleven months, which he considered a prodigious effort, when they remembered that a great proportion was in half-crowns, and the defective state of the machinery at that time. He had no doubt, however, that unless any unexpected accident should occur, they would be able to issue the new Coinage (2,500,000) consisting of sixty millions of pieces (viz. 25,000,000 of shillings, and 25,000,000 of sixpences), in seven months from the day that the Bill passed. A great object would be to get the old money out of circulation, and the new into circulation, with as little intervening delay as possible. The mode at present proposed was the following:—Besides the legal coin, de-faced and depreciated as it was, there was a great quantity of base coin circulating, and they could hardly condemn persons for receiving and issuing it, when, if they had not done so, they must have been absolutely without any silver currency at all. It would, however, be utterly impossible for the Government to do more, than to receive, under the most liberal construction, all coin of whatever description, that could be at all considered as the leg 1 coin of the realm. Where the silver was effaced, but it appeared from other examination that it was highly probable it had originally issued from the Mint, that coin would be received. Without that limitation, it would be impossible to say what the expense would amount to. He was afraid, however, though the evil seemed without remedy, that a vast number would necessarily be sufferers, during the time that must elapse before the issue of the new coinage. He should have been happy if it had been possible to avoid applying to Parliament, and that they could have gone on silently in their preparations without saying a word till they were ready with their new coinage. But under existing circumstances that could not be done, for as the law now stood, the Mint had no power to issue a silver coinage, and it was necessary therefore to clear away those legal obstructions. With a view to obviate some of the difficulties which must arise during the interim, and which would chiefly bear upon the lower classes, whom they were most bound to protect, it had been suggested by an Honourable Friend, to pass a law, pending the new coinage, to make shillings a legal tender to the extent of three shillings, and sixpences a legal tender to the extent of eighteenpence. By that means, to which he saw no objection, the poorer part of the population would be secured from those embarrassments which would otherwise result from a general refusal of shillings and sixpences not having distinctly the Tower mark upon them. The mode proposed to be adopted, in removing the old coin and introducing the new, was the following. In proportion as the coinage proceeded at the Mint, regulations would be made by the Government for lodging in all the different great towns throughout the country, a sum of new money equal to what might be supposed to be in circulation there of the old. When the coinage was completed, a proclamation might then be issued in all the towns, compelling persons to exchange the old coin for the new, and thus in ten days the whole silver currency of the country would be new.

he called in, without any interval during which the circulation would be suspended. He was quite sure, if they were to issue, as they coined it, the new coin would be sweated and flatted down, and returned upon the Mint as old legal currency. It was originally intended to have appropriated 500,000 of the new coinage to Ireland; but he rather thought that measure would not be necessary. The Bank Tokens of England and Ireland were very different. It was true, that in Ireland they were thirty per cent. below the standard value, and that in England they were only twenty-one. But then, in Ireland, they were coined by order of the Government, and actually received as legal tenders in the payment of taxes. It did not therefore appear expedient to interfere at all with that circulation, under its present circumstances. The Honourable Member then concluded by moving his Resolutions, observing that if they were agreed to, the Report might be received tomorrow, he could bring it in his Bill, and being printed, the consideration of it might be over till after the holidays.

The Noble Lord concluded with proposing the following Amendment, to be inserted after the word "that" in the original Address:—
"Assuring his Royal Highness that this House has taken into its most serious consideration his Royal Highness's Message on the subject of the new Silver Coinage; and that they feel it their duty respectfully to state to his Royal Highness, that the suppression of the Silver Coin now in circulation must be attended with great expense, and cannot be effected without serious inconvenience, and infinite loss to the lower orders of the community; and that it appears to them in the highest degree uncertain whether the country will derive any benefit from the measure, for they must entertain the greatest doubts concerning the new coin remaining for any length of time in circulation, under the present circumstances of this country, in relation to its currency."
"That this House learns, from the authority of the Legislature in the preamble to the Act of the 24th of George III. chapter 48th, that an Act made in the 6th year of her late Majesty Queen Anne, for ascertaining the rate of foreign coin in her Majesty's American plantations, had been entirely frustrated by the creation of great quantities of paper bills; and that they feel it, therefore, a duty, humbly to represent to his Royal Highness, that it is impossible for them not to fear that any regulation his Royal Highness may be advised to adopt concerning a new Silver Coinage for this country, may, in like manner, be rendered of no avail, whilst the Bank of England, as well as 642 other Banking Establishments, have a right to increase the paper currency of the country to any extent which their respective interests may render desirable."
"That this House think it further necessary humbly to express to his Royal Highness their extreme surprise, that this measure should have been suggested by his Royal Highness's Advisers, at a moment when they must be conscious that, by persuading Parliament, to provide great part of the Ways and Means for the expenditure of the year, by advance from the Bank of England, they have furnished an opportunity and an inducement to that Corporation, to increase their paper to such an extent as must, in concurrence with that of others, in all probability banish from circulation the new Coin, which they are advising his Royal Highness to issue."
"That, under these circumstances, this House felt it a duty they owe to themselves, to the public, and to his Royal Highness, humbly to implore his Royal Highness to postpone all thoughts of providing a new and extensive issue of silver coin, for the purpose of reconsidering a measure of so much importance, and of maturely deliberating whether, at a moment of such financial distress, it is justifiable to impose such a burden on his people, more especially as it must by all be deemed at least uncertain whether it can be attended with any benefit to the community, if carried into execution during the continuance of the restriction on cash payments at the Bank of England."

AN ACCOUNT of the total Value of BANK NOTES presented at the Bank, and refused Payment on Account of their being forged, from the Year 1797 to the latest Period to which the same can be made up; specifying the total Value so presented and refused Payment in each Year respectively.

The nominal Value of the forged Notes presented for Payment and refused in the Year				£
		1797	-	32,788
Ditto	-	1798	-	8,610
Ditto	-	1799	-	4,387
Ditto	-	1800	-	7,632
Ditto	-	1801	-	15,410
Ditto	-	1802	-	10,407
Ditto	-	1803	-	6,754
Ditto	-	1804	-	6,662
Ditto	-	1805	-	6,602
Ditto	-	1806	-	8,103
Ditto	-	1807	-	8,003
Ditto	-	1808	-	7,002
Ditto	-	1809	-	8,994
Ditto	-	1810	-	8,923
Ditto	-	1811	-	15,072
				<u>£154,749</u>

Bank of England,
20th April 1812.

HENRY HASE,
Chief Cashier.

N.B.—The forged Notes presented for Payment and refused in the Years 1797 and 1798, are supposed (with the Exception of about £1,000) to have been fabricated on the Continent. No Value was obtained for the greater Part of them, as they were remitted to England for the Purpose of being verified, previous to their being allowed in Account.

The above Return includes all forged Notes, supposed to have been fabricated on the Continent, and presented for Payment from the Year 1797 to the 31st December 1811 inclusive.

The following are two clauses in the Irish Tobacco Duty Bill, which appear to enact a minimum on the price of Tobacco.

"And be it further enacted, That all contracts, promises, bonds, judgments or other securities given or executed by any person where the whole or any part of the consideration of any such contract, promise or security shall be for any tobacco in leaf or manufactured, which shall have been sold for a less price by the pound weight than the Import and Excise duties payable thereon, together with a sum of 2d. added thereto shall amount to, or for any tobacco with which such permits as by this Act required shall not have been granted, shall be utterly void, and no suit shall be maintained thereon in any Court of Law or Equity.

"And be it further enacted, That if any such tobacco shall be sold for ready money at any lower price than as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the person or persons buying or purchasing such tobacco, to recover from the seller or sellers thereof, a sum equal to the full amount of such tobacco so sold as aforesaid, to be sued for and recovered by action in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record in Dublin, or by Civil Bill in a Court of proper Jurisdiction, where the amount of the sum shall be within the jurisdiction of such Civil Bill Court."

This last clause appears to us to be unintelligible.

It enables the person or persons buying or purchasing Tobacco in certain cases, to recover from the seller a sum equal to the full amount of such Tobacco. Does it by these words mean to enable him to recover the real value of such Tobacco, or does it mean that he should be entitled to recover the price that was paid for such Tobacco; or is it to be understood as meaning that he should be authorised to recover the minimum price, as enacted in this Act?

1/ A Merchant may wish to
sell to prevent bankruptcy
2/ Tobacco consigned & for
again bills drawn

COURT OF KING'S BENCH, SATURDAY, FEB. 15.

TENDER OF BANK NOTES FOR RENT.

Bray v. Hill. — The plaintiff in this case brought his action to recover damages from the defendant, for having, unlawfully distrained upon his goods, after the sum due for rent had been tendered in payment. — Mr. Garrow said, this was a case which he never expected to have had to state in a Court of Justice. He thought it had been completely put out of doors, and that no person would have chosen to agitate it. Still, however, did he imagine that an Attorney of that Court would have stepped forward as a Candidate for the honour of trying such a question. The plaintiff occupied property to a considerable amount, belonging to a Mrs. Shepherd. Mother of Mr. Shepherd, an Attorney of Court, situated in Holborn. Mr. Shepherd acted as Agent for his Mother in regard to this property, and was in the use of receiving the rent of it, on her account. On the 20th July last, the rent then due, amounting to 54l. 12s. was tendered to Mr. Shepherd; but he refused to receive it, unless it was paid in the current coin of the country—that is to say, in guineas. A proper tender, the Learned Counsel understood, would be proved to have been made. It would be for the defendant, Mr. George Blundell Hill, who made the levy, under the orders of Mr. Shepherd, to account for this conduct.

Mr. Samuel Barker, Attorney for the plaintiff, proved the tender of the rent due having been made to Mr. Shepherd, on the 20th July. Mr. Shepherd objected to receive it, unless it was paid in the current coin of the realm. He said Mr. Bray had been impudent to him; that he was determined to punish him; and, to that effect, he had taken out a writ of fieri facias against his goods, and had them removed to the Court House, at four o'clock that afternoon, unless the rent was paid to him in the current coin of the country. He did not mention his mother. A distress was put in on the Monday, being the 22d July, and the goods were removed to the Court House, at the same time, said, that, when the next quarter became due, he would sue on the covenant in the lease, unless the rent was paid in the current coin. — Gregey, hostler to the plaintiff, proved, that the defendant came in to the plaintiff's house, to make the levy, on the 22d July. The witness saw the amount tendered to the defendant in Bank of England notes, before the distress was made, but which the defendant refused to accept, saying, he would have nothing but gold, or hard cash. The individual notes then tendered to the defendant, the witness had kept in his possession ever since, and now produced.

Mr. Park was about to address the Jury, on the part of the defendant, when Lord Ellenborough interrupted him by himself addressing the Jury. Mr. Park begged that he might be allowed to say a few words by way of explanation. — Lord Ellenborough said:—"Not a word." His Lordship was sorry to be obliged to tell the Gentlemen of the Jury, that, in point of law, no legal tender had, in this case, been made. As the law stood, Bank of England Notes were not a legal tender. They did not sit there to make law, but to administer the law as it stood. He was sorry to tell them that such was the law; but he could not help the law more than the Jury could. Mr. Park assured his Lordship, that it was no fault of his that the present case had come before a Jury. Lord Ellenborough, again addressing the Jury, said, his inclinations, he was convinced, were the same with theirs; but their duty also was the same. To the inconvenience which such a verdict as they must pronounce in this case must necessarily impose on the Public, his Lordship was far from being insensible; but still, both his Lordship and the Jury must do what their duty imposed on them. The Jury accordingly found for the defendant. Lord Ellenborough, after another trial had been disposed of, reverting to the present case, observed, that, to the best of his recollection, a provision had been made in the late Act of Parliament, (Earl Stanhope's) as to tenders in payment of rent. Mr. Garrow said, unfortunately, in the present case, the distress had been put in on the very afternoon previous to that on which the Act in question received the Royal Assent. It could, therefore, have no effect on this case.

NATIONAL DEBT.

An Account of the Reduction of the National Debt, from the 1st August, 1786, to the 1st Feb. 1812:—

Redeemed by the Sinking Fund	£189,538,480
Transferred by Land Tax redemption	29,941,057
Ditto by Life Annuities purchased	1,606,040
On Account of Great Britain	£215,085,577
Ditto of Ireland	9,083,958
Ditto of Imperial Loan	1,234,514
Ditto of Loan to Portugal	118,558

Total

£225,924,517

The sum to be expended in the ensuing Quarter is 2,062,955l. 5s. 8d.

Table showing the value of Silver Coin from one Shilling to Twenty one. Shillings in grains of pure & Standard Gold. Nine grains of pure & Standard Silver.

Shillings.	Pure Gold	Standard Gold	Pure Silver	Standard Silver
One	5.65	6.164	85.935	92.903
Two	11.30	12.327	171.870	185.806
Three	16.95	18.491	257.805	278.709
Four	22.60	24.655	343.740	371.612
Five	28.25	30.818	429.675	464.515
Six	33.90	36.982	515.610	557.418
Seven	39.55	43.146	601.545	650.321
Eight	45.20	49.310	687.480	743.224
Nine	50.85	55.473	773.415	836.127
Ten	56.50	61.637	859.350	929.030
Eleven	62.15	67.801	945.285	1021.933
Twelve	67.80	73.965	1031.220	1114.836
Thirteen	73.45	80.129	1117.155	1207.739
Fourteen	79.10	86.292	1203.090	1300.642
Fifteen	84.75	92.456	1289.025	1393.545
Sixteen	90.40	98.619	1374.960	1486.448
Seventeen	96.05	104.783	1460.895	1579.351
Eighteen	101.70	110.946	1546.830	1672.254
Nineteen	107.35	117.110	1632.765	1765.157
Twenty	113. —	123.273	1718.700	1858.060
Twenty one	118.65	129.438	1804.635	1950.963
Twenty two	124.30	135.602	1890.570	2043.866
Twenty three	129.95	141.766	1976.505	2136.769
Twenty four	135.60	147.929	2062.440	2229.672
Twenty five	141.25	154.093	2148.375	2322.575
Twenty six	146.90	160.257	2234.310	2415.478
Twenty seven	152.55	166.421	2320.245	2508.381
Twenty eight	158.20	172.584	2406.180	2601.284
Twenty nine	163.85	178.748	2492.115	2694.187
Thirty	169.50	184.912	2578.050	2787.090
Thirty one	175.15	191.076	2663.985	2879.993

