

A hand-book devoted mainly to the money question

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

This handbook presents a discussion about what is wrong in the economic system, according to the Populist perspective. It was written by P. B. Maxson and J. C. Hebbard, both Kansans, who were active in the Alliance and Populist causes. It deals primarily with financial issues, but contains some information on the price of crops, railroads, etc.

Creator: Maxson, Perry Burdick, 1826-1920

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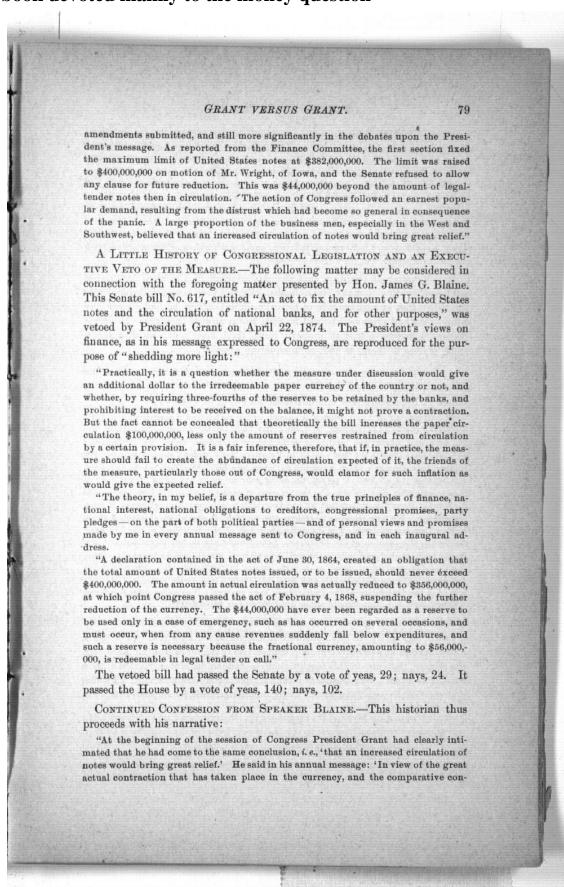
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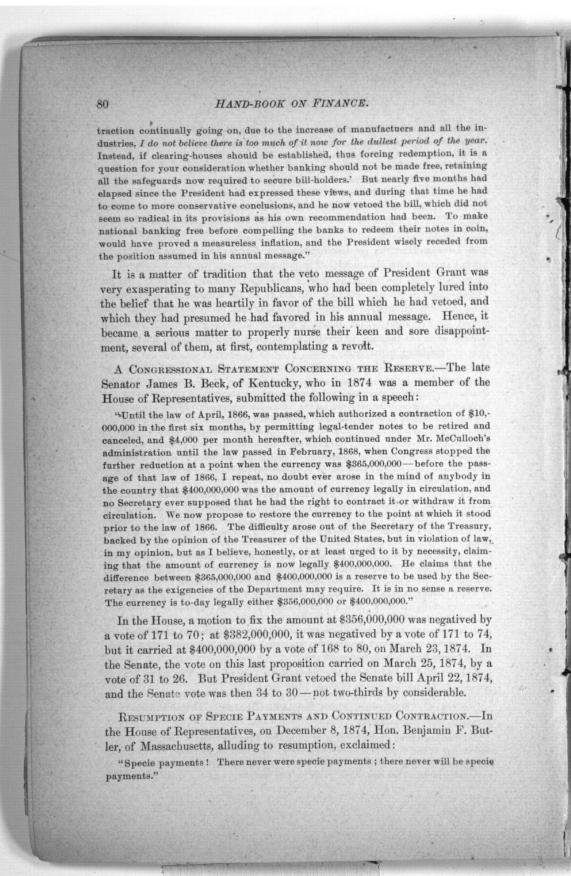
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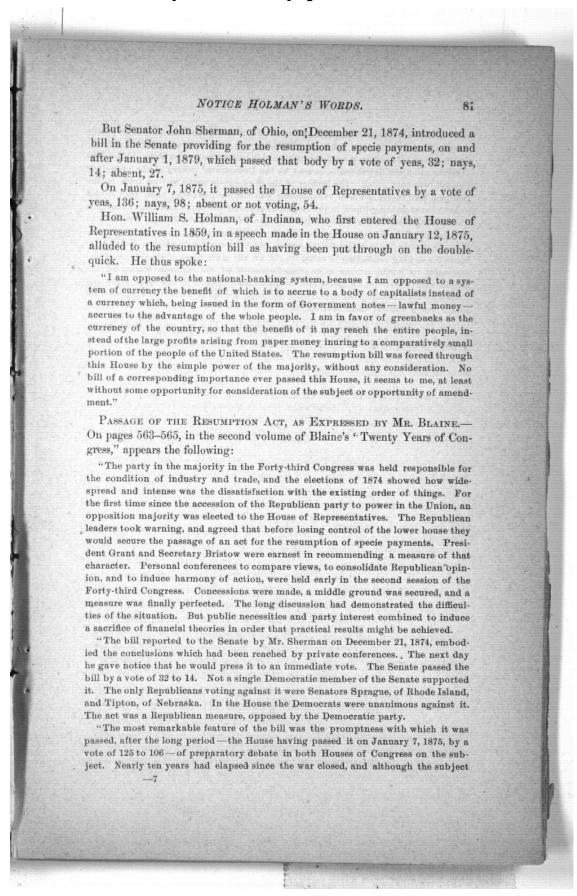




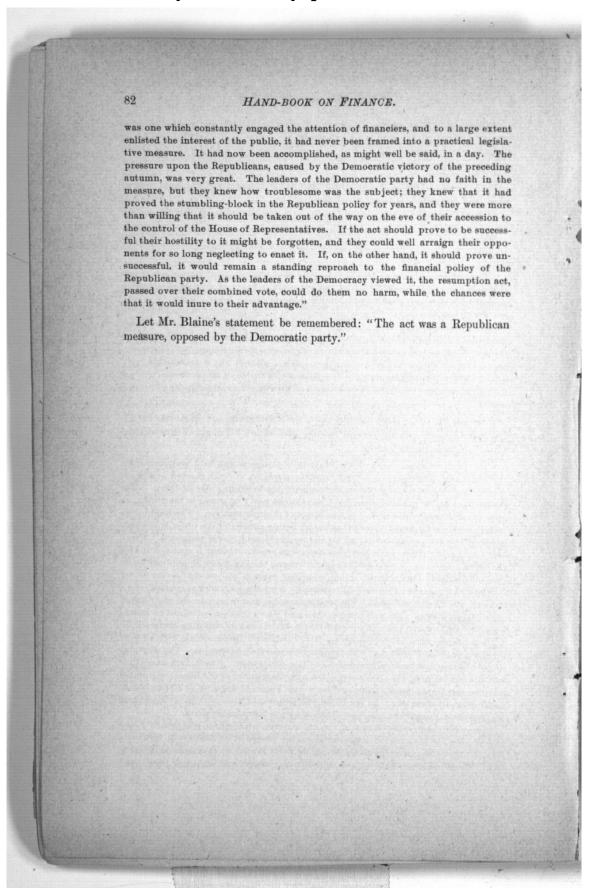




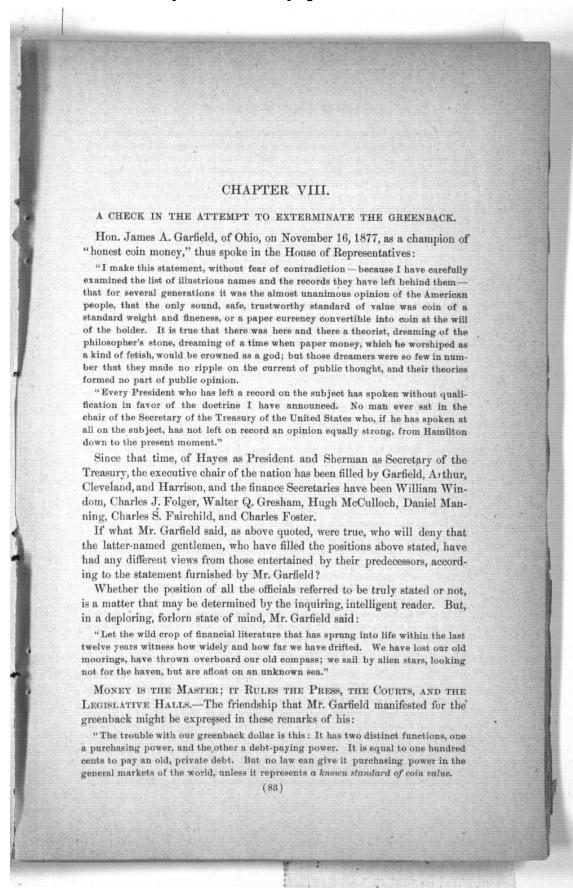




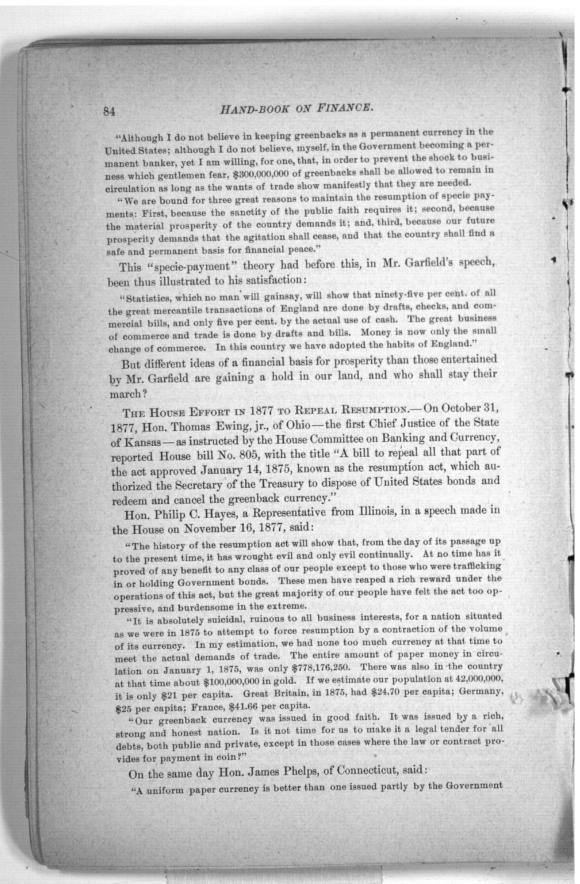




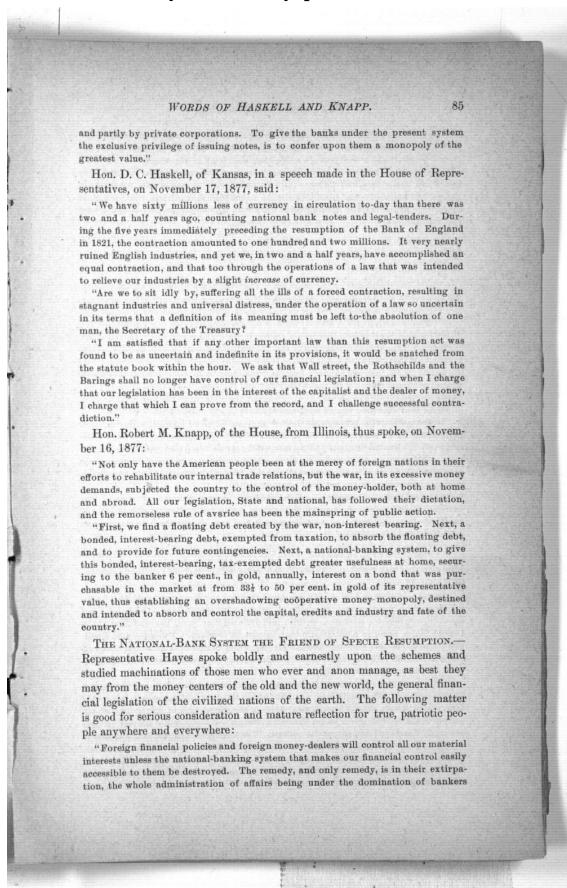




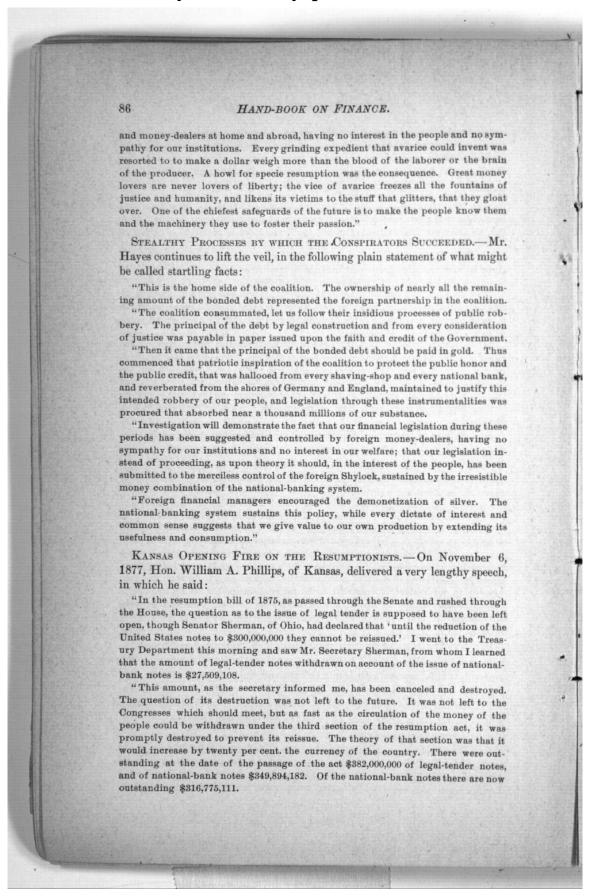




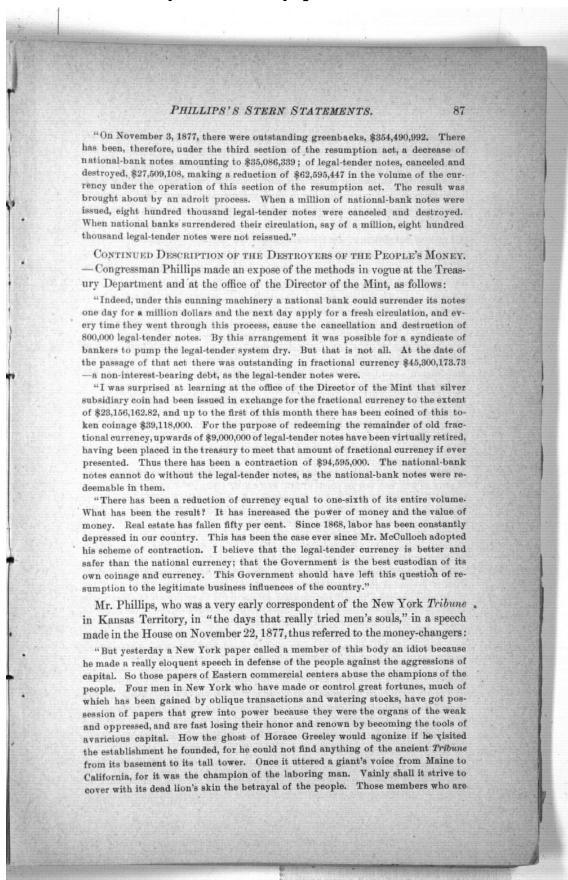




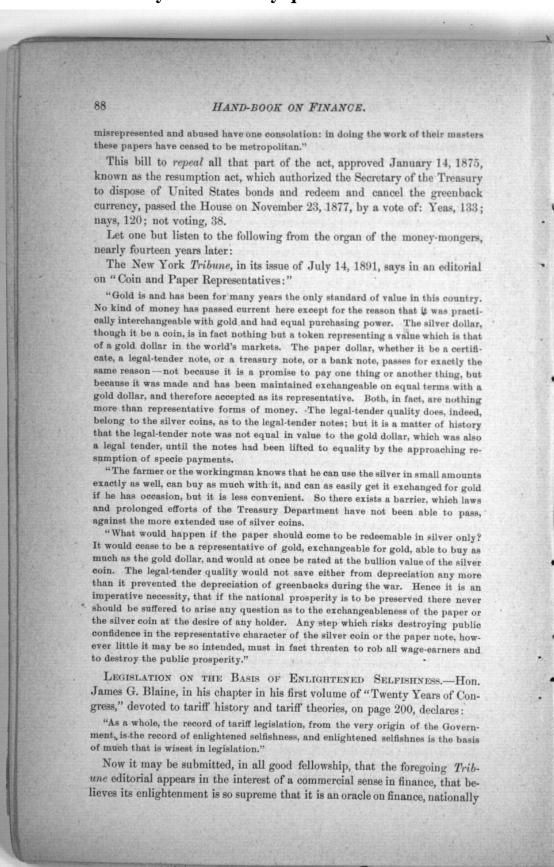














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ENLIGHTENED SELFISHNESS.

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famed for wisdom and accuracy of opinions, and hence it must needs claim that its decision in these matters is of the most unquestioned authority.

The general financial legislation in our Government for more than a quarter of a century has been dictated by a selfishness predicated upon the doctrine that "might makes right," and there is not even a decent attempt to obscure the manifest selfishness in the foregoing editorial, which would fain enlighten the wage-worker as to the need of only gold as money. Let it be mentioned, simply by way of comparison, that the silver enactment of 1890 permits the holder of silver bullion to deposit his bullion in the United States treasury, which is not to be coined at all, but which is to remain there idle, locked up for fear that some "dishonest Westerner" might obtain it, and with it be able to discharge the interest on a farm mortgage, or some other incumbrance with it. A thousand-dollar warehouse receipt for deposited bullion silver, with a gold certificate given for its purchase, might be regarded as refined "enlightened selfishness" by the investor in bullion. But let the following matter be seriously examined under the specious plea, "The currency problem has been largely taken out of politics."

CORPORATION AND PRIVATE DEBTS TO BE MADE PAYABLE IN GOLD.—Charles S. Ashley, in *The Popular Science Monthly* for July, 1891, on "A Coming Solution of the Currency Question," said:

"Several copies of railroad mortgages, made within the last ten years, from forms dictated at the great financial centers, lie before me, and in each of them I find the promise to pay "in gold coin of the United States of America of the present standard weight and fineness." This is the solution of the currency problem that the financial world, led purely by that enlightened self-interest which is at the bottom of most improvements, is preparing. No doubt there are hundreds of such mortgages, amounting in the aggregate to at least a billion dollars, and probably much more. The highest court in the land has several times declared that such contracts must be performed literally. If a man promises to pay a certain amount of gold he must do so, whether at the time of payment gold be worth more or less.

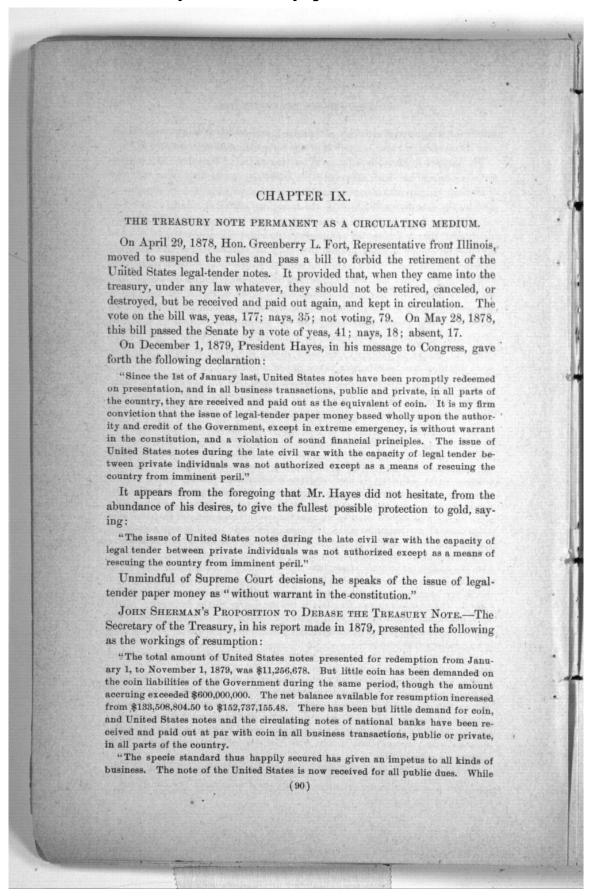
"It would be an unspeakable blessing to have the currency question removed from the domain of politics. Questions of so complex a character are precisely those which the people are most illy qualified to decide. It is the interest of all that as few questions as possible having great financial importance should be decided by the political power, for therein lies the source of the corruption of the Government, the oppression of the people, the uncertainty of business, the possibility of panics, a stimulus of class prejudice and class greed, and the obstruction of legitimate public business.

"The currency problem has been taken out of politics in a very large class of cases, and it can readily be done in nearly all.

"The same causes that have led to the insertion of the above-cited provision in railroad mortgages will lead to similar contracts in other instances, particularly in the case of long-time, low-rate real-estate mortgages to insurance companies. If this kind of obligations should become common and of recognized validity, it is obvious that the political pressure, now so great, would be entirely neutralized, because few would have anything to gain from a debasement or enhancement of the value of the coined dollar."

Might not world-wide philanthropy, exercised in the best interests of the sovereign people, suggest that such "enlightened selfishness" be consigned to the tomb of the capulets?



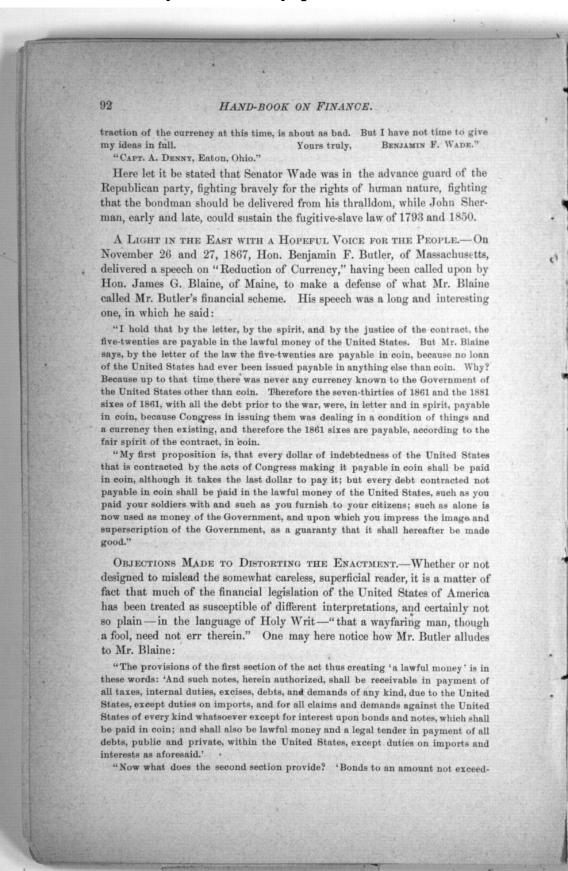




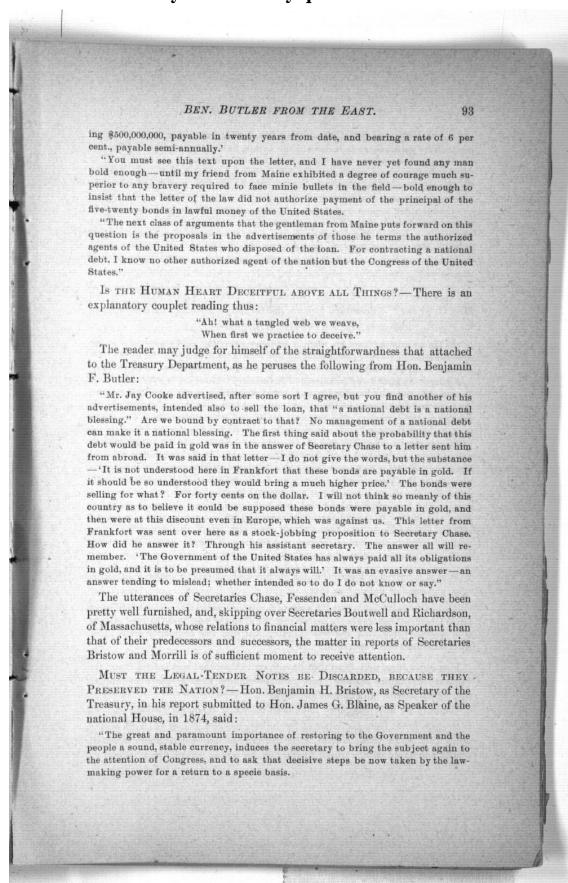
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SHERMAN COMPARED WITH WADE. they are maintained, the legal-tender clause gives no additional credit or sanction to the notes, but tends to impair confidence and to create fears of over-issue. It would seem, therefore, that now and during the maintenance of resumption, it is a useless and objectionable assertion of power, which Congress might now repeal on the ground of expediency alone; hence, the secretary respectfully submits this proposition to Congress, as to repealing the legal-tender clause to all future contracts." One of the last crowning acts of the Hayes-Sherman financial duet was the refusal to refund outstanding United States bonds approaching maturity, at 4 per cent. This was about the close of the Hayes administration. "YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON."-On February 27, 1868, Senator Sherman, of Ohio, in a speech of very great length on "The Funding Bill," remarked upon the greenback: "The amount of bank notes may be left free without any legal limit, if only the right to present the note for redemption is always enforced; redemption is at present in legal-tenders, but we all look to an early resumption of specie payments. Every additional greenback issued tends to depreciate the value of the security, and therefore, as the law itself limits the amount, it must be complied with, whatever is "I trust that before this session of Congress closes, it will adopt such measures as will gradually make the dollar in greenback in the hands of the laboring man equal to a dollar in gold." Now, let Sherman be quoted against Sherman; let him stand with the variegated hues of the political chameleon, as one may notice an earlier utterance from him in the following quotation: "Equity and justice are amply satisfied if we redeem these bonds at the end of five years in the same kind of money, of the same intrinsic value it bore at the time they were issued. Gentlemen may reason about this matter over and over again, and they cannot come to any other conclusion; at least that has been my conclusion after the most careful consideration. Senators are sometimes in the habit, in order to defeat the argument of an antagonist, of saying that this is repudiation. Why, sir, every citizen of the United States has conformed his business to the legal-tender clause. He has collected and paid his debts accordingly." THE NAME OF ANOTHER BUCKEYE STATESMAN BLAZONED WITH GLORY. -One of the sturdy products of the Western Reserve was the bold and courageous Ben. Wade. When Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio, as President pro tem of the United States Senate, wrote the following to a Mr. Denny, of Eaton, Ohio, it had great significance. Read it: "VICE PRESIDENT'S CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 13, 1867. "Yours of the 8th inst. is received, and I most cordially agree with every word and sentence of it. I am for the laboring portion of our people. The rich can take care of themselves. While I must scrupulously live up to all the contracts of the Government, and fight repudiation to the death, I will fight the bondholder as resolutely when he undertakes to get more than the pound of flesh. We never agreed to pay the 5-20s in gold; no man can find it in the bond, and I will never consent to have one payment, for the people. It would sink any party, and it ought to. To talk of specie payment or return to specie under present circumstances, is to talk like a fool. It would destroy the country as effectually as a fire. And any con-

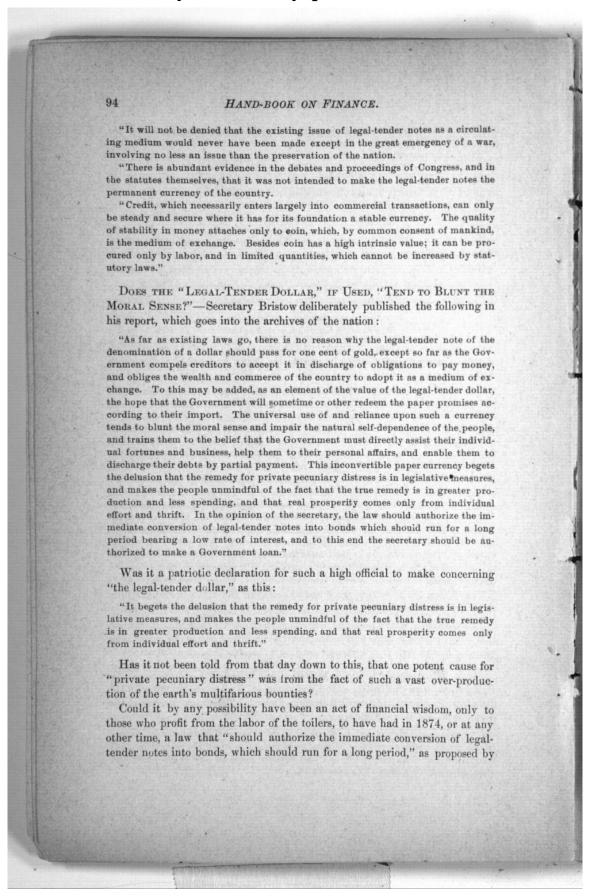




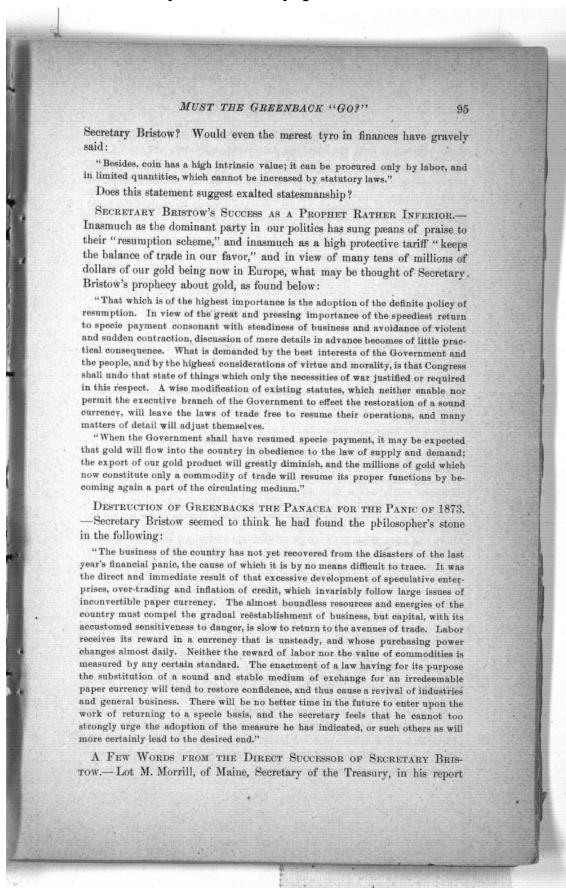




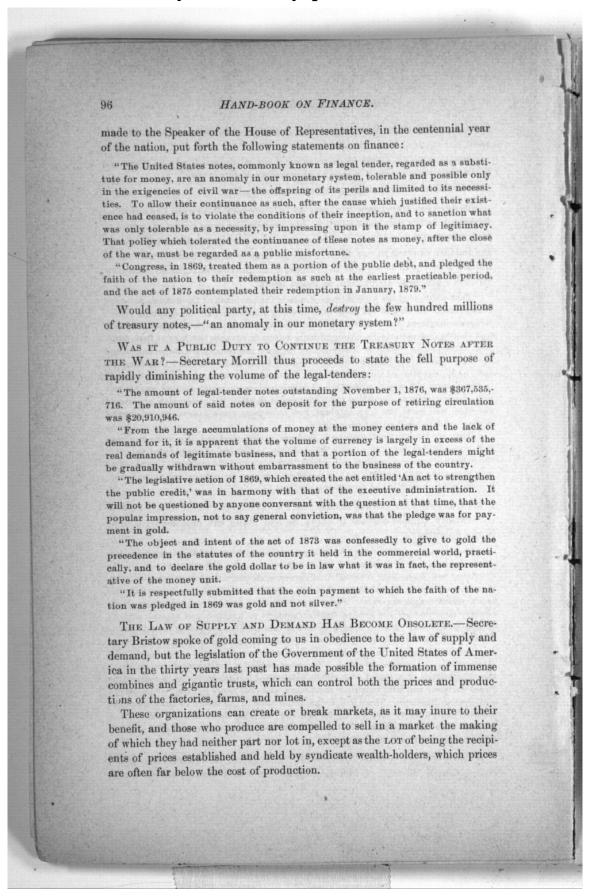














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GREENBACKS-"NOT MONEY."

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The wealth-holders are mainly the millionaires who have built up the national-banking system and spoliation tariffs, and who provide the circulating medium in the interest of the wealthy. The Government has parted with its control of the money of the country, and is simply furnishing its notes and bills through a delegated power to a corporate greedy band, called national bankers and gold standardites, thereby placing a nation of so-called freemen under the galling yoke of privileged Shylocks.

The result of this money system and stock gambling may be witnessed in the millions of farms and homes that are mortgaged, the foreclosure of which will install robber-barons (domestic and foreign), and make millions of American people tenants at will—thereby perpetuating the LANDLORD system of the old world in happy, grand America, "the home of the brave and the land of the free." And this in the beginning of the second century of American Presidents!

But, stepping over the hiatus from President Grant to Garfield, let the following financial doctrines be carefully examined.

THE PLATITUDES AND ERRORS IN MR. GARFIELD'S INAUGURAL.—The only state paper that President Garfield was permitted to give his countrymen was his inaugural address, from which the following relative to finance is presented:

"The preservation of public credit and the resumption of specie payments, so successfully attained by the administration of my predecessor, have enabled our people to secure the blessing which the seasons brought. By experience of commercial nations in all ages, it has been found that gold and silver afford the only safe foundation in the monetary system. Congress should provide that compulsory coinage of silver, now required by law, may not disturb our monetary system by driving either metal out of circulation. If possible, such adjustment should be made that the purchasing power of every coined dollar will be exactly equal as a debt-paying power in all the countries of the world. Grave doubts have been entertained whether Congress is authorized by the constitution to make any form of paper money a legal tender. The present issue of United States paper has been sustained by the necessities of war, but paper should depend for its value and currency upon its convenience and in its prompt redemption in coin at the will of the holder, and not upon its compulsory circulation. These notes are not money, but a promise to pay money. If the holders demand it, the promise should be kept."

The Status of the Republicans and of Messrs. Garfield and Arthur in 1880.—The Republican party, at its national convention held at Chicago, on June 2, 1880, resolved:

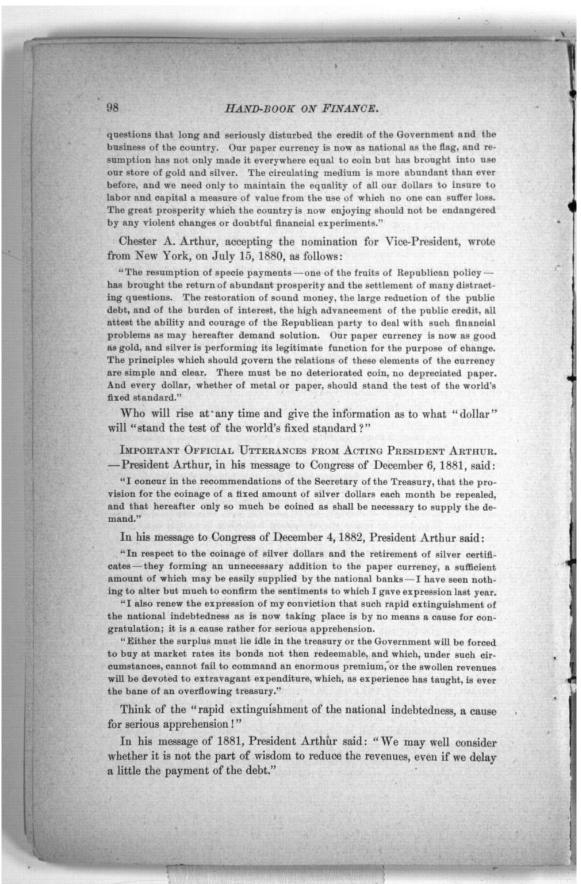
"The Republican party has raised the value of our paper currency from thirtyeight per cent. to the par with gold. It has restored upon a solid basis payment in coin for all the national obligations, and has give us a currency absolutely good and equal in every part of our extended country."

James A. Garfield, in his letter accepting the nomination for President, dated Mentor, Ohio, on July 10, 1880, said:

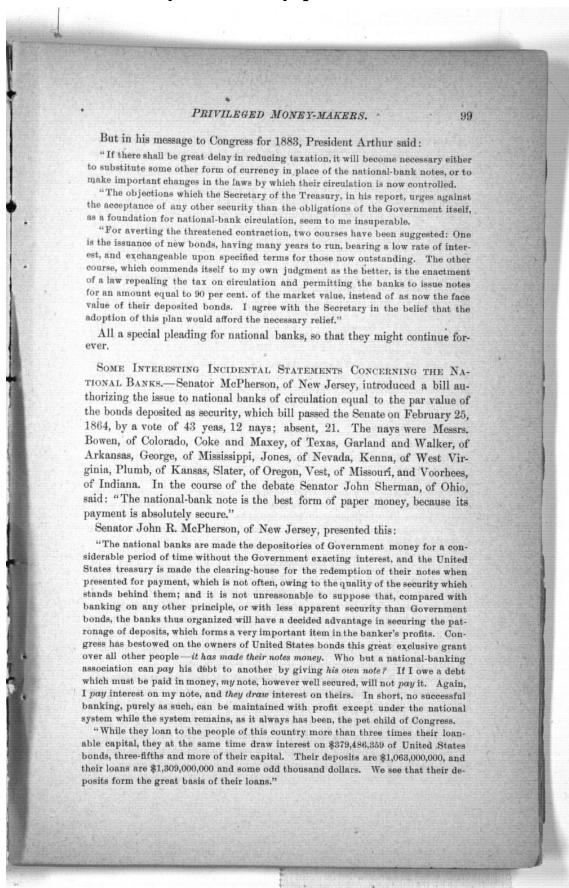
"The resumption of specie payment, which the Republican party so courageously and successfully accomplished, has removed from the field of controversy many

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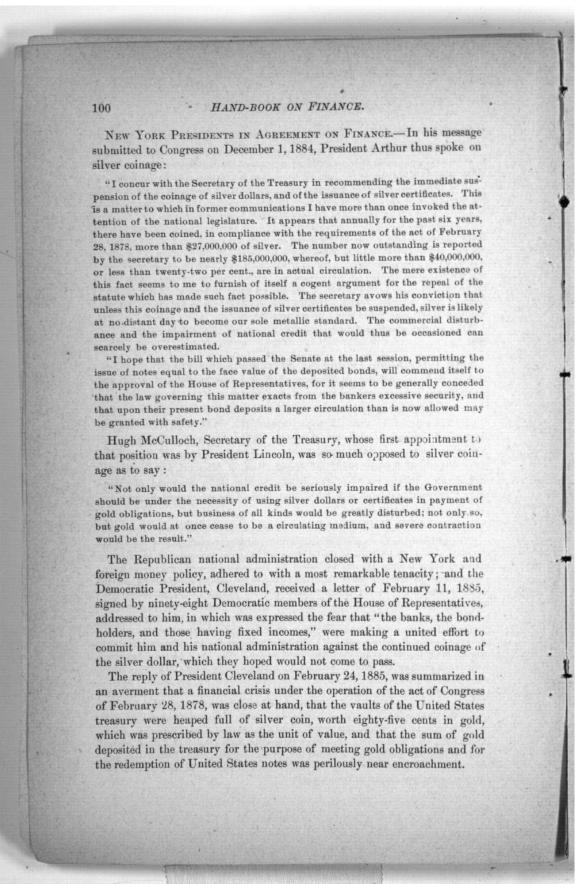




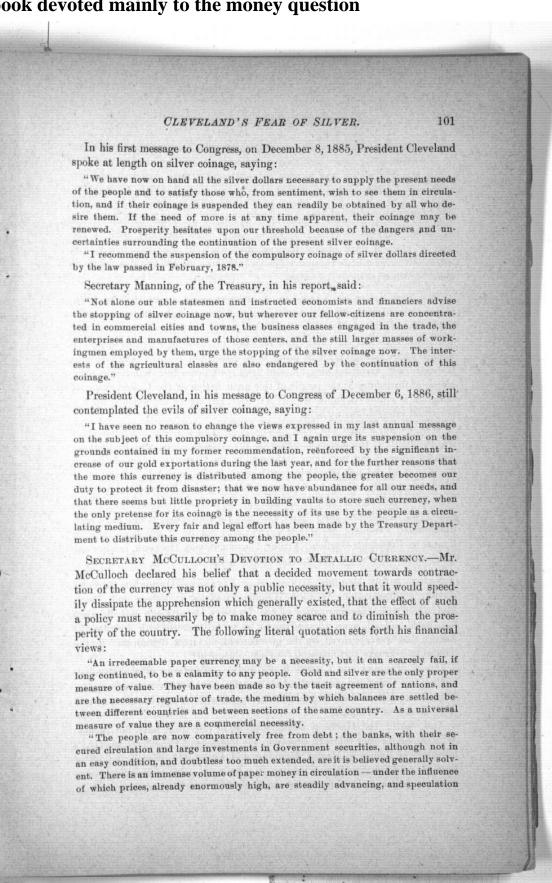




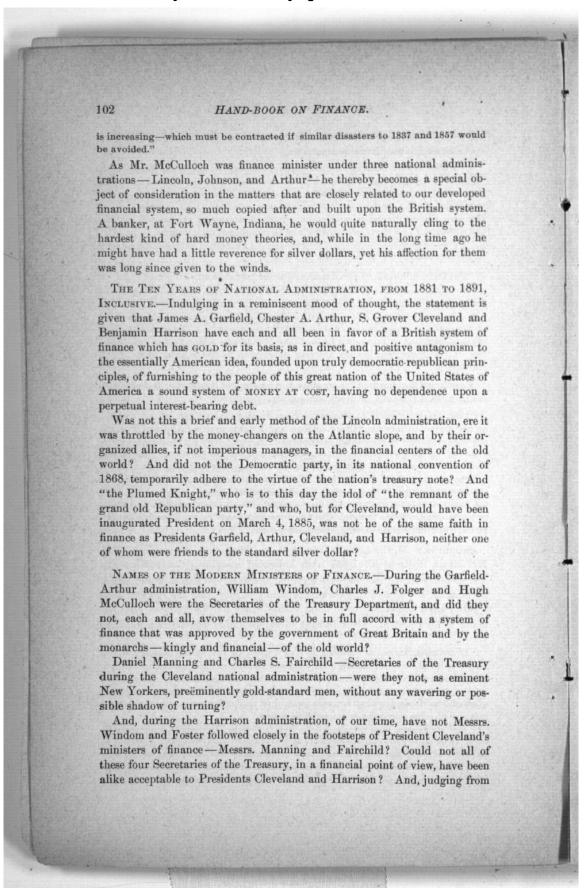




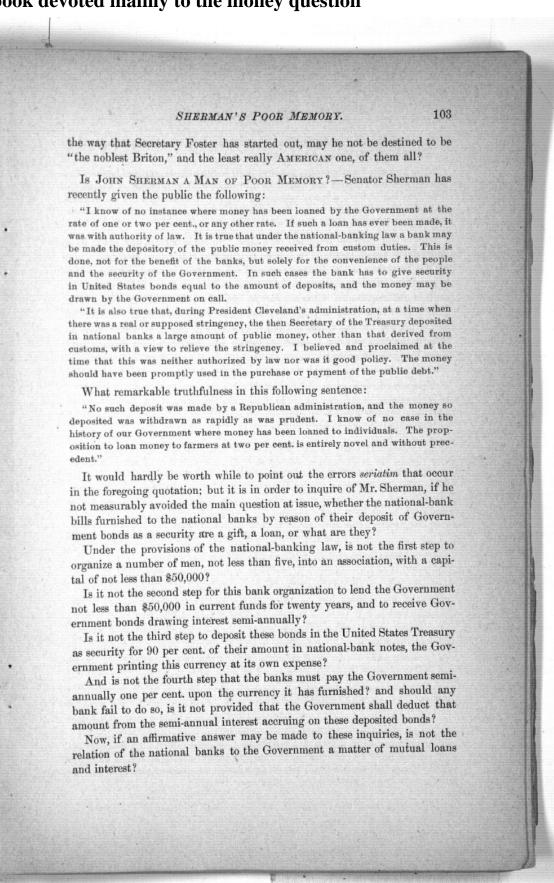




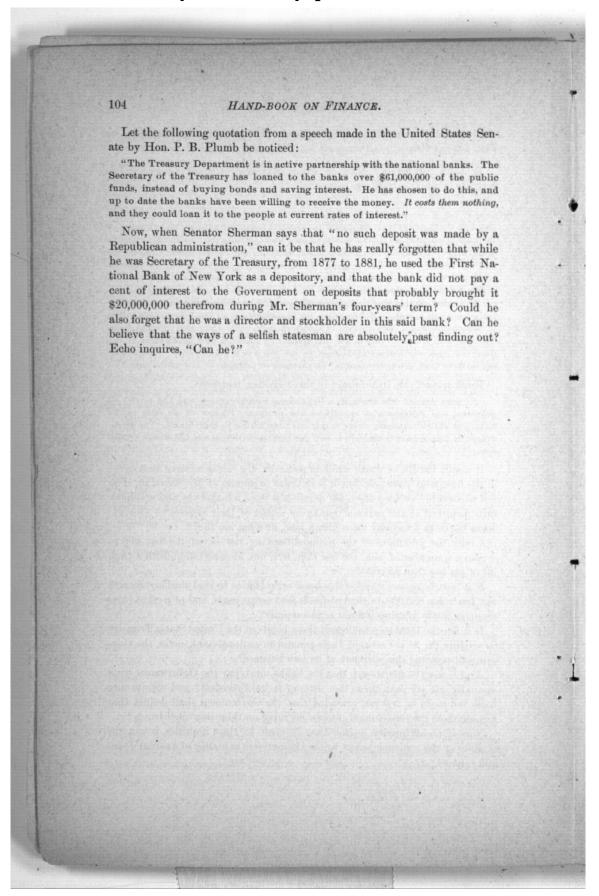




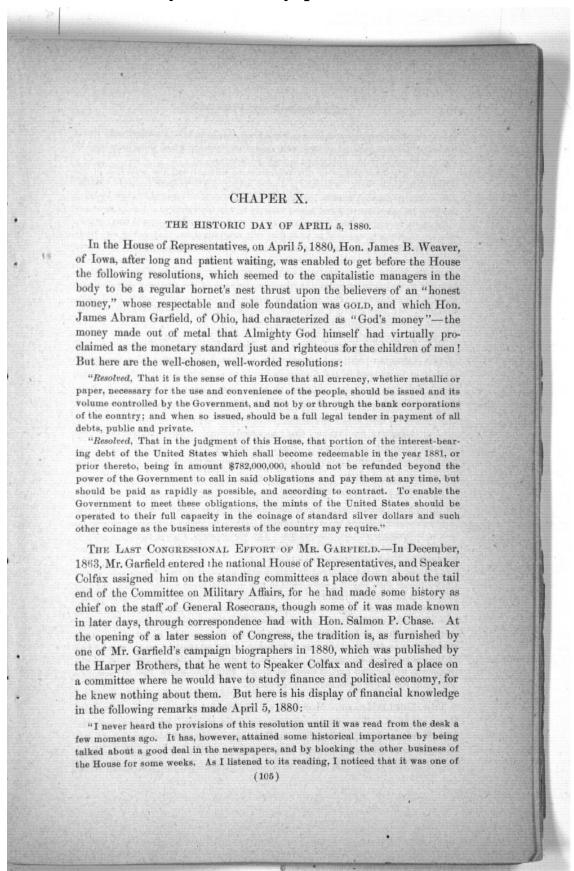




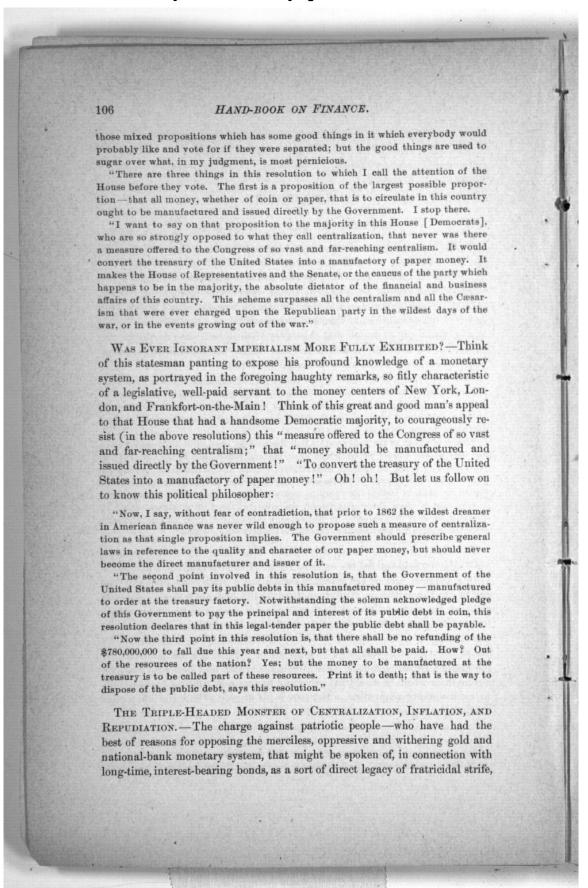




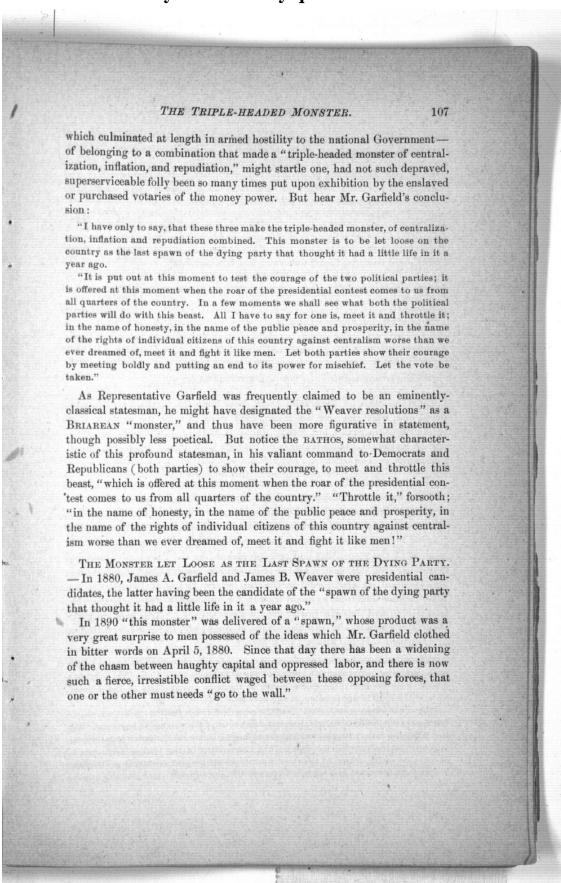














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Below are given some statistics that may have	their use	s.		
PRESIDENTIAL VOTE.				
State.	Cooper, 1876.	Weaver, 1880.	Green- back gain.	
Missouri Michigan Iowa Texas Illinois Pennsylvania Kansas Indiana New York Kentucky West Virginia Wisconsin Ohio Tennessee Mississippi	3,498 9,060 9,001 17,233 7,187 6,876 9,533 1,987 1,944 1,373 1,509 3,057	35,045 34,795 32,327 27,405 26,358 20,668 19,710 12,986 12,873 11,498 9,079 7,980 6,456 5,916 5,797	31,547 25,735 28,326 27,405 9,125 13,481 12,166 3,353 10,386 9,554 7,706 6,471 3,399 5,916 5,797	
two-thirds of the States, but Messrs. James B. Be iam D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, were the only Re four yeas. Was the Lion Bearded in his Den; the —There was in that Congress a Representative dianapolis, Indiana, the beautiful city where our There was a beauty and harmony in the dwellin	epublicans E GARFII whose ho Presiden	ELD IN Home was t	is Hall? hen at In- on resides.	
referred to, and it was ever sacred to peace and leminister of the gospel that had been proclaimed he seemed ever willing to blow the trumpet in the and to sound an alarm even in the hall of the Like Thomas Jefferson, he could tremble for his God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep for some of the remarks of this patriotic statesman, Mr. Garfield—Hon. Gilbert De La Matyr:	by the Prepared and Property of the Property o	is gentler rince of I and spir of Repre "rememb And here	nan was a Peace, and itual Zion, sentatives. ering that are given	
"The short, terse and comprehensive resolutions unterse, clear and comprehensive speech of the gentlem who is, unquestionably, the ablest leader of the hard present the vital issues pending in our politics. "The resolutions state: First, That the people, three sume their constitutional right to issue and control ond, That the money thus issued and controlled in vomaking it of uniform value. Third, That the portion	nan from d-money p ough their the volun lume shall	Ohio (Mr arty of the Government of curr be full le	Garfield), ne country, ent, should ency. Sec- egal tender,	