

MONEY

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Money by Charles Moran

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CHARLES MORAN

MONEY

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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BY

CHARLES MORAN.

"The two greatest inventions of the human mind are writing and money,—the common language of intelligence, and the common language of self-interest."

MARQUIS DE MIRABEAU.

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PREFACE.

NOTES originally commenced to be used in discussions at the meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Political and Social Science, lately organized in this city, gradually assumed the form of the present work, which is an attempt to analyze and discuss the subject of Money, in its most important, practical phases, more fully than has been done in any of the works that have, as yet, fallen into the hands of the writer.

The conclusions arrived at appear to explain and reconcile all the anomalies that, heretofore, have rendered money so vexed a subject. The views expressed in this work in regard to the relative value of gold and silver, and the effects of the large influx of gold from new mines, were published in the local press as early as 1851. Every prediction then made on this subject has been fully realized, while not one of those made by the partisans of the theory of the future depreciation of gold and appreciation of silver has been fulfilled. The conclusions in regard to the effect on prices, of bank-note issues, were arrived at and communicated

to friends long before reading the able works of Fullarton and Tooke, in which similar views are maintained. This is mentioned here, not so much to claim the merit of originality for these conclusions, as with a view to obtain for them the weight due to conclusions arrived at by different parties, examining the same subject from different points of view.

The constantly increasing division of labor daily increases the exchanges of commodities and services, in which money plays so important a part. The subject of money is, therefore, supposed by the writer to be of sufficient general interest to warrant the publication of the present work. If it shall aid in dissipating any of the numerous errors and prejudices so long connected with money, and thus increase the power of this instrument to further the well-being and progress of humanity, the object of the writer will be attained and his labors amply compensated.

NEW YORK, *April* 20, 1863.

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MONEY.

CHAPTER I.

A CORRECT appreciation of the functions of money and of the natural laws that govern it, is of vast importance to humanity, from its universal use in the exchanges of commodities and services ; exchanges becoming each day more numerous and indispensable in consequence of the constantly increasing division of labor.

Many things have been used at different times as money : cowrie shells in Africa ; wampum by the American Indians ; cattle in ancient Greece. The Carthaginians used leather as money, probably bearing some mark or stamp. Frederic II, at the siege of Milan, issued stamped leather as money. In 1360, John the Good, King of France, who was taken prisoner by the celebrated Black Prince and sent to England until ransomed, also issued leather money, having a small silver nail in the centre. Salt is the common money in