

**MONEY AND ITS VICISSITUDES IN
VALUE; AS THEY AFFECT
NATIONAL INDUSTRY AND
PECUNIARY CONTRACTS: WITH A
POSTSCRIPT JOIN-STOCK BANKS**

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Money and its vicissitudes in value; as they affect national industry and pecuniary contracts:
with a postscript join-stock banks by Samuel Bailey

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SAMUEL BAILEY

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WITH A

POSTSCRIPT

ON JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

THE RATIONALE OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, A CRITICAL
DISSERTATION ON VALUE, &c.



LONDON:

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1887.

PREFACE.

THE following Essay was the result of an attempt on the part of the Author, some years ago, to settle his views on the various questions of which it treats, with only a secondary reference to publication. Having, in a partial degree at least, satisfied his own mind by the effort, he has ordered a few copies of the treatise to be printed, in the hope that it may assist others engaged in the pursuit of the same object.

In discussing so difficult and complicated a part of political science, it is more than probable that, with all his care and anxiety for truth, he has fallen into grave errors. These he shall be most happy to see corrected by the enlightened criticism of such inquirers as have reached more accurate and comprehensive views than he himself has succeeded in attaining. He has only to add that the present treatise is the one adverted to a few years ago in the Preface of "*The Rationale of Political Representation*," with such alterations and additions as a deliberate and careful revisal has enabled him to introduce. The Postscript on Joint-Stock Banks is, as a cursory inspection of it will suffice to show, of much more recent origin.

May 9, 1837.



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ON MONEY,

&c.

CHAPTER I.

ON THE NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF MONEY.

THE nature and functions of money have been so frequently explained that it is needless to treat them here at any length. The present Chapter will, therefore, confine itself in a great measure to the exposition of some distinctions not always sufficiently observed.

There are three characters in which money may be considered, and which it is of importance to discriminate.

1. Money is in the first place the universally marketable commodity, or that in which every one deals for the purpose of procuring other commodities. If a man possesses money, he can always obtain such other articles as are exposed to sale, but when he possesses those other articles he cannot always obtain money. Hence any one who has a quantity of some