

**THESE HARD TIMES:
WHEREFORE
AND HOW LONG?**

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These hard times: wherefore and how long? by J. C. Elliott

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J. C. ELLIOTT

**THESE HARD TIMES:
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... THESE ...

HARD TIMES:

WHEREFORE AND HOW LONG?

STUDIES OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

BY THE REV. J. C. ELLIOTT.

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42

CONTENTS.

Article I.	-	-	-	Wherefore.
"	II.	-	-	Uses of Money.
"	III.	-	-	Change of Unit.
"	IV.	-	-	Effect on Property.
"	V.	-	-	Exchange.
"	VI.	-	-	Rise of Gold.
"	VII.	-	-	Stability of Silver.
"	VIII.	-	-	Growth of Wealth.
"	IX.	-	-	This Century.
"	X.	-	-	Supply of Gold.
"	XI.	-	-	Supply of Silver.
"	XII.	-	-	Mines and Prosperity.
"	XIII.	-	-	Profits of Mining.
"	XIV.	-	-	Effect on Character.
"	XV.	-	-	Effect on Nation.
"	XVI.	-	-	International Agreement.
"	XVII.	-	-	Greater Security.
"	XVIII.	-	-	National Banks.
"	XIX.	-	-	How Long?
"	XX.	-	-	Arguments for a Gold Basis.

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PREFACE.

This book is the result of studies undertaken solely for the purpose of discovering, if possible, the mysterious cause of these depressed times. I have no personal interest in the question, and, so far as I know, I am free from party bias of any kind. The facts were gathered from the best available sources, and will be found sufficiently accurate by any who may have the means of verifying them.

If the reader does not always find the reasoning clear and forcible, yet, if he has a logical mind, and will read this book through, he will be led irresistibly, as I have been, to the belief that our trouble is monetary, and that there should be a change in our financial policy.

J. C. ELLIOTT,

Pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, Akron, Ohio.



WHEREFORE.

ARTICLE I.

The query "Why these hard times?" is in every thoughtful mind. That there is a radical wrong somewhere that should be righted, all admit; but there is no conception of what that wrong is, and, therefore, there is no agreement as to the remedy.

The cause of these depressed times, if we are not wanting in intelligence, certainly can be found, and a remedy can be applied, unless we are wanting in moral stamina. If there is this wide-spread suffering and we are not able either to find the cause or to apply the remedy, then it must be confessed with shame that we have neither the intelligence nor the moral character to fit us for self-government, and our experiment of a government "by the people; for the people" is a failure. We are degenerate sons unable to perpetuate the blessings bought for us by the sacrifice and blood of our fathers.

The answer to this question does not interest us alone; this in common with every other principle touching human rights and public welfare that has been discussed and settled in this republic, widens in its results, and affects the destiny of the civilized world. As patriots, we should come to this consideration unprejudiced, and this should also be studied with a broad Christian spirit, recognizing our obligations to all men.

These hard times are not caused by crop failures in any part of the land. The seasons have been

favorable and the fields have yielded the cereals in great abundance. The orchards and gardens have furnished an abundance of fruit and vegetables. Clothing is abundant and cheap; we could never before buy such good, warm woolen goods for so little money. Mines of coal, iron and other metals have not become exhausted, while oil and gas wells have greatly multiplied and force out their treasures for our comfort. Nature has been lavish in her blessings, even the cold of winter seemed tempered to the needs of the poor. A kind Providence has been over us. The strange anomaly is cold, hunger and suffering in the midst of teeming abundance.

They are not caused by a scourge of pestilence. The public health was never better. We have come to understand the conditions a vigorous body requires. The study of physiology and hygiene in our public schools has made this generation more intelligent in the care of the health, and the benefits are seen in this freedom from any public scourge and the gradual lengthening of the average of human life.

Quarantine regulations by the general government, and also careful guarding against contagious diseases by State, municipal and township authorities, have made it quite improbable that any general pestilence shall occur among us.

Vigorous physical health has now become the fashion. Attenuation of body is no longer regarded as indicating a refinement of mind. Clothing and shoes are now worn that fit and are comfortable. The contraction of any part of the body is now vulgar. College athletics are carried to such extremes that this development of the physical occupies more