

1000 pence sterling now contain—of fine gold, 30.5160 grams; of the proposed standard gold, 9-10 fineness, 33.8999 grams.

1 pound sterling now contains—of fine gold, 7.3224 grams; of the proposed standard gold of 9-10 fineness, 8.1360 grams.

40 of the new or metric pounds (or sovereigns) will be equal to 41 of the existing or sterling pound; and 1017 of the new or metric pence equal to 1000 of the existing pence of account, or 61 of the new pence equal to 60 of the existing or old.

FRANCE—METRICAL GOLD COINAGE.

Metrical Gold Coins useful in France, for International Commerce.

A piece of 100 metrical francs, containing—of fine gold, 30 grams; of standard gold, 33½ grams.

A piece of 20 metrical francs, (Napoleon,) containing—of fine gold, 6 grams; of standard gold, 6½ grams.

A piece of 15 metrical francs, containing—of fine gold, 4½ grams; of standard gold, 5 grams.

A piece of 5 metrical francs, containing—of fine gold, 1½ grams; of standard gold, 1¾ grams.

100 gold francs (French) now contain—of fine gold, 29.03258 grams; of standard gold, 32.258064 grams.

30 of the new or metric gold coins will be exactly equivalent in value to 31 of the existing gold coins.

Mr. Elliott further states that if the British single gold standard were also metric and decimal, nothing would be wanting to its completeness.

In 18, the American Statistical Association submitted the following propositions to the United States Congress:—

"*First.* That the American Statistical Association earnestly favours the speedy practical adoption by the people of the United States of the metric system of weights and measures; the system of which the metre, the litre, and the gram are respectively the units of length, of capacity, and of weight, and the use of which, by act of the last (the Thirty-ninth) Congress, has been rendered permissible in the United States, in the making of contracts, and has been necessitated by the requirements of several branches of industry.

"*Second.* That our coinage should have simple relations as to weight with the unit of weight of the metric system, the gram.

"*Third.* That the standard as to fineness of our coinage, whether of gold or silver, should continue as now, nine-tenths of fine metal to one-tenth of alloy.

"*Fourth.* That in the opinion of this association no widely-extended and permanent uniformity as to coinage can be secured through the adoption by our government of any system which is in conflict with the principles mentioned above.

"*Fifth.* That the weight in grams and the fineness of the coins hereafter to be issued should be legally stamped thereon prior to issue.

"*Sixth.* That the changes required for converting our existing coinage into a metrical one are so slight that the recoinage of the existing coins of the United States would be unnecessary; that the difference between the existing coinage and that proposed, especially as regards gold coins of less denomination than ten dollars, is very considerably less than the deviation now allowed to the mint, which is one-fourth of a grain for the gold dollar and quarter-eagle, and one-half of a grain for the half-eagle, the eagle, and the double eagle.

"*Seventh.* That in pursuance of the foregoing, the gold dollar should contain one and one-half grams of fine gold, or its equivalent, one and two-thirds grams of standard gold (nine tenths fine), and that other gold coins should be in proportion.

"*Eighth.* That the silver half-dollar and the smaller silver coins hereafter to be issued should contain of fine silver at the rate of twenty-two and one-half (22½) grams to the dollar, or their equivalent, twenty-five (25) grams of standard silver (nine-tenths fine).

"*Ninth.* That the gold coinage, as above described, should be made legal tender in payment of sums of all amounts; and that the silver coinage should be subsidiary, and admitted as legal tender to an amount not exceeding ten dollars in any one payment."

The American Association for the advancement of Science adopted a resolution in favour of adopting the U.S. coinage to the metric system, by making the value of the dollar precisely 1½ grams of fine gold, as a step towards the formation of fraternity among nations, by the unification of weights, measures and coinage, inasmuch as all monetary units which have simple relations to the gram must have simple relations with each other.

Mr. Elliott makes a special note on proposition *Seventh* of the Statistical Association that the "weight of the existing gold dollar, when new, is only 3-10ths of one per cent. in excess of the proposed metric dollar." Those a little worn will be the weight exactly. To proposition *Eighth* he states that the existing legal tender five franc piece of France is the same as herein proposed. To proposition *Ninth* he remarks that the proposed silver coinage has precisely the same weight as 15 times the proposed gold coinage, which over values silver, the market value of gold for the past 14 years having been 15½ times that of silver.

Our readers will not fail to have noticed, that there is a difference of opinion and facts between the statements of Mr. Lowe in the House of Commons, and the statements we have here quoted from German and United States authorities, in reference to the French franc system.

For our own part we have a very decided opinion, and that is, that in the attempt to settle upon an international system, the question should not be: is it German, or is it French, or is it American? But is it scientific? Is it in accord with the metrical system which is scientific? If the answer is in the negative, then it is in vain to hope that any system which has this fault can ever become universal; and it ought not.

The course to be adopted to our mind seems very simple: let the different nations all make their gold coins 9-10ths fine; make them weighable in grams; and have the weight in grams stamped on each coin. Whatever the values might be if this were done, they could easily be, internationally, computed. And if in addition to this, the decimal principle were also added, the system would be perfect.