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A COLLOQUY

UPON THE

SCIENCE OF MONEY.

BY

JOHN HENRY NORMAN.

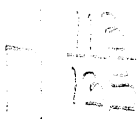
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A COLLOQUY

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SCENE.—*A Bank Parlour not 200 yards from the Royal Exchange.*

TIME.—*Eleven o'clock on Monday morning.*

PRESENT.—*Mr. Monnummus, Mr. Binnummi, Mr. Creditus, and Mr. Mesites, Bullion Coin and Exchange Dealer (Mr. E.).*

Mr. M.—Glad to see you, friends, thus early. You know what the present Chancellor of the Exchequer said recently ?

Mr. C.—Oh, yes. In July 1887 he told his constituents in St. James' Hall that this vexed question of bi-metallism, with others, would have his attention in the autumn, and that the Government could not allow the questions to drift without bringing them at last to a real authoritative decision.

Mr. M.—I was not thinking of that. But as

you mention it, I must say he seems a long time in accomplishing what he intended. Perhaps, as he is a cautious politician, now that the Grand Old Man has spoken, he may find it within his power to speak out also, especially since a scientific man has given him his opinion that in his (Goschen's) advice to mono-metallists to agitate the country against local dual standards, he has recommended them to embrace an impossible idea and then to agitate against it. I always maintain against the bi-metallists, who claim the Chancellor as one of them, that unless he has swallowed his principles he cannot agree with them; and as yet I have read nothing to cause me to change my opinion that he is on the side of John Locke and his disciples. No; I was not thinking of that, but of an utterance of his made not long ago, when at a banquet of commercial men he declined their invitation to address them on the local dual standard question, and quoted the saying of Sydney Smith that "Currency and exchanges, next to love and religion, fill our lunatic asylums."

Mr. C.—Ah, I remember that; and now I perceive that you have been wise in getting us together thus early on a Monday morning when, if at any time, our brains should be best fitted to discuss this subject of money.

Mr. B.—I think that we bi-metallists may be well satisfied with the great strides our cause is making. The opposition of the members of the Royal Gold