

WILLIAM GEORGE JORDAN, "OUR NATIONS WEALTH IN GOLD DOLLARS", LADIES HOME JOURNAL.

IDAHO DAILY STATESMAN, THURSDAY, MORNING, JULY 29 1897

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A \$20,000,000 FRAUD.

That Is What the Bridal Package In the Government Treasury Is Declared to Be.

"I hate to shatter a pet delusion by giving the facts in the case," said a former clerk in the treasury department at Washington, "but fraud ought to be exposed regardless of consequences, and the greatest fraud I know of is the famous 'bridal package' of the treasury vaults.

"I say famous, but it isn't famous in a general sense. It is famous only among bridal couples. I don't know how it is, but every bridal couple that go to Washington on their wedding-tour—and it seems to me that about nine-tenths of the bridal couples of the country go to Washington—know all about that package, and the bride can't rest until she goes through the regular routine connected with it. No visit to Washington by a stranger is complete without an inspection of the treasury vaults, but if his or her visit is a non-bridal one the fraud of the package isn't played.

"I don't know who it was in the department that first imposed it on a bridal pair, but it went, and it grows in popularity every year. When the couple enter the vault, the man in charge, after a few preliminary and perfunctory remarks, reaches up on a shelf, takes down a package of notes, and tells the bride to take it in her hand, if she hasn't asked for it the very first thing. He then tells her that the package contains \$20,000,000 in treasury notes, all in denomination of \$10,000 each. The bride is delighted, of course, and when she goes back home she talks for weeks about having held \$20,000,000 in her hand all at one time. The bridegroom can't resist enjoying that same pleasure, and he fondles the package awhile, and the pair go away blissful over the experience, while the treasury vault man tosses the package back on the shelf and chuckles.

"Now this is all simply a gigantic fraud on the young people. The treasury at Washington does not hold that amount of money. The bulk of the government money is at the subtreasury in this city. That 'bridal package' is a gay deceiver. It does contain notes to the amount of \$20,000,000 of the 20

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Our Nation's Wealth In Gold Dollars.

The wealthiest nation of the world is the United States. The census of 1890 shows the true valuation, or fair selling price, of the real and personal property of the country to be \$65,037,091,197. It is an increase of over 49 per cent on the valuation of the previous decade and is about six times the value of the money of the entire world. The mind cannot grasp the meaning of such figures without graphic illustration. This amount in gold dollars would load 123,570 cars, each carrying a ton. If 2,000 gold dollars were piled one on the other, they would form a stack three feet high. Make similar piles close together till a wall of gold one mile long and worth \$230,403,000 is formed. Increase this wall to 28 1/4 miles and the amount would represent our national wealth. Placed side by side the coins would form a carpet of gold covering five square miles.—William George Jordan in Ladies' Home Journal.

A Turkish Bride.

Richard Davey, in his book, "The Sultan and His Subjects," thus describes the appearance of a Turkish bride:

"The bride, whom we will call Gul

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