

All Official Letters to the Department proper must be addressed to the "Secretary of the Treasury," and in replying to Letters from the Department the initials on the upper left hand corner should be referred to.

Treasury Department,

Washington, D. C., June 16th, 1873.

Sir:

Inviting your attention to the within report as to the probable cost of putting the U.S. Branch Mint at New Orleans into proper working condition, permit me to add that experience has demonstrated that the present capacity of the U.S. Mints, (and its branches) is not at all sufficient to meet, in addition to its usual requirements, the further one imposed upon it by the provisions of the coinage act of 1873, viz:—"the continued recoinage of all coin abraded beyond a certain limit," and as by the provisions of the same act the Department is prohibited from disbursing any such abraded coin, the want of adequate capacity for supplying the Treasury with good coin is likely at any time to produce great
embarrassment,

embarrassment; again, the Southern Pacific R.R. which is hastening to completion, bids fair to open up new and more convenient routes of transportation to our Atlantic^{and} Gulf ports for the products of the mines of our south-western territories, as well as for those of the silver mines of Mexico and thus vastly to increase the volume of bullion at these points and in view of these facts and the further one that by the terms of its conveyance to the U.S., the ground whereon the Branch Mint at New Orleans La, stands will revert to that city, in case its use as a mint is discontinued, I would respectfully recommend that this matter be brought to the attention of Congress at its next session with a request for an adequate appropriation to put said branch mint in proper working order and furnish the means for active operations.

Hon. W. A. Richardson }
Secretary of Treasury }

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant
R. W. T. Lipold