

CHAPTER XII.

ON THE PROBABLE APPRECIATION OF GOLD, AND CYCLES OF INFLATION AND DEPRESSION OF TRADE.

“Given the fertility of the mines, and the total quantity of money in circulation, prices in the aggregate must be lower through the world, as a whole, in proportion to the general industry and skill of mankind, and the extent and facility of their trade.”—T. E. CLIFFE LESLIE.

It was recently stated in the House of Commons by Mr. Goschen, one of the highest authorities on the subject, that a continuous appreciation of gold seemed probable, and that the appreciation had already begun. The fact has an important bearing on the question of leases, and indirectly on other matters of the greatest interest to all connected with land. As the subject has hitherto been only discussed by specialists, and, as far as I have observed, has not been alluded to by the multitude of writers and speakers on the land question, it seems to fall naturally within the scope of the present work to examine the reasons why an appreciation of gold may be anticipated, and to deduce some of the more practical results. An appreciation of gold is, of