MANWARD*letter* Volume 5, April 2021

Manward Wins: Celebrating a Milestone... and Preparing Our Portfolio for a New Economic Reality

PLUS... The Perfect Biotech Play for a Post-COVID-19 World

Dear Reader,

Well... somebody somewhere lost a bet.

We did it. This little passion project of ours has made it to its fourth anniversary. It's hard to believe, but this marks the 49th time I've picked up my pen and written one of these letters to you.

I hope the journey has been as inspiring for you as it has been for me – equal parts fun, thought-provoking and, if you've followed our model portfolios, lucrative.

We've done a lot since we mailed out our first issue.

We took a group of subscribers to Maine. (Is it soon time to go again?) I made some very big (and, as it turns out, some very *accurate*) predictions... and readers made some very big profits thanks to them. And your fellow subscribers have sent me some of the kindest and most rewarding letters I ever could imagine.

But along the way, I've made some mistakes.

Take the very first issue that we ever published. In it, I detailed a man whose vision and ideals I looked up to. I still do.

John Muir was a pioneer. Without him, our native landscape would look much different. The natural resources that made this country the richest, strongest and greatest on the planet may never have reached their full potential.

But last year, some 106 years after his death, Muir made headlines once again.

In a word, he was "canceled."

The Sierra Club – the conservation group that he co-founded – was forced to denounce their hero. It turns out he made some not-so-nice comments about certain groups of people.

One of those groups called the land Muir loved their home long before he got there and claimed it as a treasure for a new nation.

Canceling a Culture

The press didn't go easy on the dead man.

Muir was "depressingly conventional" on cultural matters, wrote one author who weighed in on the controversy.

Andy Snyder is the founder of Manward Press, the nation's premier source of unfiltered, unorthodox views on money. An American author, investor and serial entrepreneur, Andy cut his teeth at an esteemed financial firm with nearly $100 billion in assets under management.

Known for his outspoken market commentary, Andy's been a keynote speaker and panelist at events all over the world, from four-star ballrooms to Senate hearing rooms.

Today, Andy's dissident thoughts on wealth and investing can be found exclusively in *Manward Financial Digest*, as well as in the pages of *Manward Letter*. He also helms the award-winning investment advisory services *Alpha Money Flow* and *Codebreaker Profits*.

Inside...

"But he was an otherwise harmless and decent man," Daniel Duane wrote in an opinion piece for *Time*. "My point is really just that Muir experienced Yosemite as God's empty paradise only because armed men stole the land by violence 17 years before he arrived in 1868."

Those are heavy words.

But what in the world do they have to do with this newsletter and its four-year anniversary?

In a word... everything.

And no, I have not joined the "cancel culture." The hypocrisy these days is so thick that entire generations are choking on it. No statues of Muir should come down.

My point, as you might expect after the last four years, is far more nuanced and, dare I sound prideful, far more useful.

You see, Muir made two big mistakes – mistakes that many of us still make today... especially when it comes to our money.

He got sucked into the sickness of a selfish culture. And he never dared to challenge his own view of things.

Had he done so, his contribution to this nation and its natural treasures would have been far greater and untarnished.

A Theft Without the Guns

I have no regrets giving the man a tip of my hat in that inaugural issue. No man lives without sin. And not a single reader has uttered a negative word about the matter.

But I raise the rather serious and deep point today because it points to one of the greatest lessons any of us can learn... whether it's in the way we treat others or the way we treat our money.

We must think differently... and we must challenge the norm.

I can name dozens of things that our culture is doing today that will, without a doubt in my soul, be "canceled" by future generations.

This current mess with our money is chief among them.

I can't help but think of that previous line... that "Muir experienced Yosemite as God's empty paradise only because armed men stole the land by violence 17 years before he arrived in 1868."

Could it be that you and I are experiencing the same today but in reverse?

That we're experiencing a roaring stock market, economic prosperity and incredibly tight safety nets because we're stealing from those who will come a generation from now?

I say six stimulus packages and $3.5 trillion worth of freshly printed dollar bills sure look no different from armed men taking somebody else's land.

Create a Generational Treasure

So what's the solution? Do we all move to a land free of sin and live off the grid? Do we join my Amish neighbors and shun the connection to it all?

That's up to you.

But here's something we all must do. We must be aware of what's happening. We must think and ponder it... and we must take it all very seriously.

We are, without a doubt, stealing from generations to come.

That's why I brought us back to Muir today. What a great lesson he and his controversy can teach us.

He knew what to do when he saw a treasure at risk of destruction. He preserved it. He didn't let it get ripped apart.

But it's those innocent folks who didn't have the guns and the strength who I ultimately pity. They had no choice in the matter.

That is my point today.

After four years of penning this letter, I am more convinced than ever that we must make wise decisions, understand all of our risks and do whatever it takes to not just prosper today but give future generations something to cherish.

Bottom line... if we don't protect our money and treat it like a national treasure, somebody will surely stroll along who will. And then what will we have to hand the next generation... the generation that's going to have a heck of a fight on its hands?

Easy... we'll hand them nothing but an angry, broken culture that hates its past.

This issue – and every one that precedes and follows – is devoted to that notion.

Enjoy it.

Be well,

Andy

Rising Rates: How We Prosper When Trouble Comes Knocking

If you live with a lie long enough... you begin to believe it's true.

When I was young, I lived in a remote section of Southeast Alaska... about 35 miles northeast of Ketchikan. It seems like a lifetime ago, yet I think back on the experience daily. It refreshed my view of the world.

It replaced a suburban, consumerist mindset with a refreshingly clear view of the world.

One week, we had a group of visitors from California. I took them to one of my favorite spots on the planet – a wonderful hot spring that trickled out the backside of a nearby mountain. To get there required a motorboat, a canoe and a reliable rope to get us across a waterfall.

Along the way, though, something crazy happened.

One of the two young guys (who was clearly uncomfortable outdoors) in our canoe asked a question. "Is this man-made?" he asked, pointing to the glass-flat lake we were paddling across.

Whew... we had some work to do on that one. We spent the rest of the day assuring the lost soul that there wasn't a gift shop tucked behind the big old-growth cedar trees and that he wasn't part of the latest thrill ride at Disney World.

"If this canoe goes over that waterfall," we later told him, "don't smile for the camera. Smile so your wife doesn't gag when she identifies your body."

The real world can be hard on some folks.

Yes... it's true. You can enjoy a lazy river without first filling it with concrete and putting a lifeguard every 35 feet. Yes, a bear will come right up and steal a fish out of your hand.

There's no lawyer-approved fence between him and his dinner.

And yes, it's true... Businesses can thrive without a bureaucrat pushing stimulus checks their way.

Going Numb to the Idiocracy

Now that we've made a career out of watching a different form of reality, we worry the same warped mindset has infected the markets.

As our famed *Manward Financial Digest* contributor Joel Salatin is known for saying... "Folks, this ain't normal."

The **GameStop** (GME) mess. Raging ups and downs on the stock market. All the free money. It's a sign of a much bigger problem... a problem that's altering economic reality.

Take, for example, some disturbing news from earlier this year. Personal income soared in January. The average American saw a jump of 10% during the first month of the year.

Great news, right? Folks started the year off with big raises... new jobs... and stronger businesses...

Nope. Not at all. It's more man-made smoke and mirrors.

When we subtract the cash dished out by the government, chiefly $600 in stimulus... income growth disappears.

The folks behind the checks, though? They don't mind the fakery in all of it. They're quick to point out much of that money went straight into the economy. Retail sales rose 2.4%.

Good, I suppose. But anybody with any economic sense surely wants to know what will happen when the spending stops.

Or worse, what will happen if it doesn't stop?

We're about to find out.

Rising Rates... Rising Anxiety

If you've been around for a while, you likely know that I was one of the first to call for rising inflation. We simply cannot continue to print money – trillions of dollars at a time – and not have the value of that money fall. It's simple logic.

The Federal Reserve has printed $3.5 trillion over the last year, and thanks to the nearly $2 trillion stimulus bill that has Congress pumping its fist... it's about to print a whole lot more.

If this is our new reality... we'd better get good at adjusting our portfolios as interest rates rise.

That's the beauty and the job of our Modern Asset Portfolio. I'll show you why it's important and what our portfolio could soon look like if rates continue to climb.

Right now, despite last month's rapid rise in interest rates, the real rate on the 10-year Treasury (that's the nominal rate minus inflation) remains negative. It means we must continue with our current asset allocation, which strongly favors the assets that do well when money is cheap.

But what if, as I predicted in the January issue, the Fed is lying to us? What if it is forced to slow inflation by raising its key lending rate later this year? Or, worse yet, what if it stays true to its word and keeps its rate unchanged... letting inflation run rampant and leaving the market to force yields higher?

We must be prepared to move fast. Here's our battle plan that will keep us nimble and profiting while so many others are wondering where their profits went...

Getting Prepared

Remember, our Modern Asset Portfolio dictates five distinct levels – all based on real interest rates:

- Negative rates (our current level)
- 0% to 1%
- 1% to 3%
- 3% to 5%
- Greater than 5%.

You'll notice the categories on the extreme – anything below zero and anything above 5% – are quite broad. They're extreme because, well, they're on the very far ends of the current economic spectrum.

While real rates above 5% were once considered normal (they were last widespread before the dot-com collapse), they'd be a vast departure from our current circumstances.

Also note that the gap between 0% and 1% is smaller than the gaps between the next levels higher – just 100 basis points compared with 200 for the other spreads. That, too, is quite on purpose, as incremental change here has unique and magnified effects.

With rates at that barely positive level, we're out of "extreme" territory but certainly in unique times... which call for a unique investment strategy. As we may soon see, it's this transition period that can be so deadly for uninformed investors. It's why we narrow our parameters and focus on the situation tightly.

At this point, I am not convinced we will enter a sustained period of positive real rates. Again, the Federal Reserve has promised to print as much money as it takes to keep us where we are for at least the next two years. We now must see whether the free market has the strength to do what's right.

If it does – if rates go positive – we will adjust our allocations accordingly. But, as you'll see, it will be very targeted.

Right now, our "negative rate" allocation calls for the following...

- 10% to gold
- 10% to cryptocurrency
- 10% to international blue chips
- 20% to domestic blue chips
- 20% to "buyback dominators"
- 30% to "deflation leaders."

Those last two have proven to be very successful asset classes thanks to negative rates. As I've written ad nauseam, companies are able to buy back so much of their available float because interest rates are dirt cheap and the economy is entirely sluggish.

As the cost of debt rises, that will become less of a force. It certainly will not go away, though. Buybacks, after all, were the carrot that led the bulls up Wall Street's steep hill during the massive run following the 2008 crash – even when real rates were positive.

Our exposure to the powerful force should not wane. It will stay at 20%.

But when rates are positive and inflation is a headline-making force, overweighting deflation leaders no longer make as much sense.

These are the high-tech companies, like **Amazon** (AMZN), **Apple** (AAPL), **Netflix** (NFLX) and scores of other much smaller firms, that drove prices down by creating massive disruptions in traditional industries.

By definition, if inflation is taking hold, their grip on the economy has weakened. After all, Amazon can lower prices for only so long. Eventually – with enough free money – they must rise again.

When we move to this level, we will cut our exposure to deflation leaders dramatically – to just 15%. We won't cut it entirely because we don't want to fall behind as new deflationary technology emerges or if the economy slips once again.

A New Addition

A new category will get a piece of the sector's former allocations... **emerging markets**. It will get 15% of our investment dollars.

Emerging markets have significantly trailed the S&P 500 over the last five years. It makes good sense.

Companies in those areas of the world have not had the ability to buy back their own shares. They are not home to the big deflation leaders, and their central banks don't have the luxury to fund their economies with freshly printed dollars. But they are home to companies that do extremely well when other parts of the world are on an economic uptrend.

We'll devote a portion of our money to growth opportunities in places like Brazil, South Korea, the Mideast and a unique opportunity... Africa. And don't worry – there are plenty of ways to get the job done without changing your dollars into some exotic currency. I'll show you how.

Along those lines, we'll increase our allocation to international blue chips to 15%.

Europe has been one of the worst spots on the planet when it comes to negative interest rates.

As I write, German 10-year bunds trade with one of the worst rates in Europe... negative 0.3%. It's gotten so bad that, just as predicted, German banks are now not only charging their biggest customers interest to deposit money (a flat-out absurd idea just a decade ago) but also actively shooing customers away. In a nation of big savers, the banks can no longer afford the little customers.

It's not hard to see the opportunity in a "return to normal" situation as interest rates rise. In an upside-down economy where a person is charged to deposit money but can borrow for free (you can now get a 0% 20-year mortgage), rates simply going positive could straighten out what ails much of the continent.

It's unlikely we'll see a change within the next few months, but if we do, international blue chips will be a profit hot spot for investors.

It's a similar situation for domestic blue chips.

Play to the Base

Every base portfolio (remember, our Modern Asset Portfolio is not the home of your speculative, "risky" money) should have strong exposure to the world's biggest and strongest companies. These are the slow-and-steady dividend payers. They're the companies growing reliably without heavy debt or wild swings in demand. And they're the companies that have been through more than one economic cycle.

When interest rates rise moderately, their businesses are largely unaffected. Unlike what happens with buyback stocks or price-disrupting companies, blue chips like **General Mills** (GIS) or **Verizon** (VZ) don't see a big shift in their businesses or balance sheets.

It's not until real rates get significantly higher (greater than 3%) that their dividends begin to get some stiff competition from safer alternatives. When that happens, share prices tend to fall to push the dividends higher. Only then will we consider adjusting our allocation.

Until then (again, I suspect it will be a long time), we will keep 20% of the Modern Asset Portfolio allocated to domestic blue chips. Now we come to the two controversial asset classes – gold and crypto.

Taming the Bull?

Without a doubt, crypto is the most modern of modern assets. As always, we must put our money where we think – and where history shows – it will be treated best.

In some ways, that's the very backbone of crypto. The worry over the dollar and its sovereign brethren has allowed Bitcoin to erupt onto the market. It now trades with a market cap of more than $1 trillion.

If interest rates climb on increased fears of dollar weakness, that valuation could easily double. After all, Washington now regularly prints that amount of money just to "stimulate" the economy.

Owning a digital currency – no matter whether it's Bitcoin or one of its alternatives – makes great sense. We have that now in our portfolio with **Monero** (XMR).

But not all cryptos are a dollar alternative. This is critical to understand. Some of my favorite tokens were built with no visions of pushing the greenback aside.

Instead, they're built as a high-tech tool to do things differently. In my research advisory *Alpha Money Flow*, for instance, we recently grabbed a stake in a popular coin that aims at the Internet of Things. It creates a way for machines to efficiently transmit data.

It has nothing to do with the health of the dollar. Its price has soared by more than 150% in just six weeks.

Of course, anything modern, by definition, hasn't quite been around the block yet.

Risk in the crypto space remains high. That's why any in-and-out trading should be done with your speculative money. But until rates rise above 1%, the speculative frenzy in crypto is likely to continue. Our portfolio allocation will remain at 10%.

It may increase over time but only as the market matures.

That takes us to gold...

No-Man's-Land

Gold is an inflation hedge. As with Bitcoin, many of its holders own it as a way to protect their purchasing power. When the once-mighty greenback falls in value, gold has traditionally been there to make up for it.

But here's the thing. That's true only at the extreme ends.

For instance, when interest rates were recently at rock bottom, gold jumped to record highs near $2,000 per ounce. In other words, when inflationary pressure was at its absolute lowest, gold pressure surged.

That's because at negative real yields, cash stored in gold returns just as much as cash stored in the bank.

Again, we can go back to those folks in Germany who are paying for their deposits. To them, gold is a smarter store of value.

But as rates climb – again, I'm talking about a moderate climb simply out of negative territory – gold can't keep up. As so many have said, gold pays no interest.

Only when inflation fears rise significantly does gold come back in the picture as a strong store of value. In the middle, it doesn't find much demand.

Every portfolio should have gold in it. But as rates rise and we move out of the extremes, our position should wane. If we see positive real rates, we will decrease our allocation to gold to 5% – a much more traditional stake.

Ready... Aim... Don't Fire

Here's the thing with all of this. At this point, what to do when rates rise is still an exercise in thought. Real rates remain deeply negative. Taking the Fed's word for it, I expect them to stay that way.

We've seen the market try to fight the Fed. Pundits were quite worried in late February when the market suddenly defied the central bank and rates popped. Markets dipped on the moves.

But if I recall, there's an old axiom that warns of going against the money maestros.

While I am not changing our allocations – we remain in the "negative rates" level – it is important to know what is likely to come next.

It could come next month or several years from now. No matter when it happens, though, we'll be ready for it.

The Modern Asset Portfolio and the unique theory behind it will ensure that our money will be where it is treated best.

Right now... our portfolio tells us we've got the market's current "reality" dialed in. And our answer these days is "Yes, this is man-made." This economic lie isn't natural. Sadly, plenty of people believe it is.

THIS MONTH'S STOCK PICK

COVID-19 Has Turned This Dutch DNA Superstar Into a Prime Takeover Target

Personalized medicine is here.

It will not only enhance and save lives but also put big money in the hands of investors... and give our Modern Asset Portfolio some strong, safe exposure to a solid international business.

I recently got a peek of this incredible technology in action...

I received a kit in the mail that could save a young boy's life. He needs a bone marrow transplant but needs a donor who's a specific match. All I had to do was swab the inside of my mouth and send a sample back to the nonprofit group aiming to connect the healthy with the sick. With just a few simple tests, it can quickly and cheaply see whether I'm a match.

This technology, in the grand mix of it all, isn't new. The ability to find a handful of specific proteins in my cells is not, at least these days, difficult. As I've written before, today we can dive deep into a person's makeup and see not only what diseases may affect them... but also what medicines have the best chances of helping them.

Take the news from **Qiagen** (QGEN) last month. It makes the sort of testing equipment that makes my simple swab test possible.

It announced a deal with a large pharmaceutical company to create a test that determines whether a woman suffering from advanced cervical dysplasia will react favorably to the company's treatment.The immunotherapy treatment works on some women but not others. This test will use DNA to sort it out.

Qiagen has a similar partnership with another large drugmaker. This time they're teaming up to beat lung cancer. In this case, Qiagen is charged with developing a tissue-based test that looks for a specific mutation that the drug company intends to target.

Eventually, it will spell the end of "shock and awe" medicine, replacing it with treatments that are specifically tailored to a person's unique makeup.

And get this... Just last month, scientists revealed that they've found a single gene that could, in their very proud words, "stop one-third of all cancers from developing."

This gene, dubbed GLI1, is very important to humans while we're still in the womb – when stem cells are growing into various parts of our bodies. After that, it serves no purpose... but to kill us. Just "turning off" this gene shows the very real potential of stopping 1 in 3 forms of cancer from growing.

That's huge.

But how do we do it? How do we test such things? How do we know who has which unique gene expressions?

It's Qiagen's job to answer those questions.

The King of DNA

The Dutch company – which develops all kinds of molecular testing products – has its hands in virtually every form of DNA testing. Qiagen works in the diagnostics realm. It sells its wares to academia. And it's a go-to source for the pharmaceutical industry.

In its financial results, the company breaks down its efforts into four businesses.

With $804 million in sales last year (out of a total $1.8 billion across the business), the biggest slice of the sales pie goes to its "**Sample Technologies**" unit. This is where the gene-sequencing magic happens. Sales from the category are strong and getting stronger... up 47% year over year. An interesting note that I found while researching the company is how it is purposely aiming more of its efforts at the famed "razor and blades" business model.

Many of the sampling products the company sells feature one-time-use components. In other words, a sale is not done when a new testing device is delivered. No, the sales will continue as the buyer turns to Qiagen for more of the disposable products – just as razor companies make big money by selling blades for years down the road.

The company saw 57% growth in its instrument business... meaning the sales will continue to compound for years to come. It's very sustainable and reliable growth.

The next-largest business is Qiagen's "**Diagnostic Solutions**" unit. It raked in $461 million in sales, down 1% from 2019 figures.

This unit is also home to much of the company's personalized medicine work. It develops the tools and tests that help doctors match the right treatment to a person's unique genetic makeup.

Next up is the company's "**Nucleic Acid Amplification**" unit, with $364 million in sales last year. It's a fancy term for a testing system that looks for remnants of DNA or RNA in a sample.

And, oh boy... this has been a big one over the last 12 months – a cash cow.

This is the home of much of the company's COVID-19-focused business, so it's no surprise sales jumped 62% over last year's. Qiagen has more than 10 applications related to COVID-19 that have added significant value to its business. The sales boost will surely wane as the weight of the pandemic eases. But each of the products also has non-COVID-19 applications, meaning sales will certainly not go to zero.

Finally, there's the "**Genomics**" group, worth the smallest slice of sales ($166 million in 2020). This is where the company goes digital. Think of it as the company's software and database offerings. It stores and translates data for the industry – boasting more than 90,000 users across the globe and more than 5,000 new findings each day.

Add it all up and it's clear Qiagen is a leader in genetic testing and diagnosis.

A Fight for the Profits

It's no wonder that, nearly a year ago, **Thermo Fisher Scientific** (TMO) wanted to buy the company at a hefty premium that was 20% higher than the market's valuation of the company at the time.

Qiagen thought it had a good deal. The company's directors approved the acquisition, and the folks at Thermo Fisher were quite eager to brag about the move's "complementary offerings."

But shareholders said no. They wanted more.

Not satisfied with the bad news, Thermo Fisher went back to its bean counters and came up with a new number... a buyout offer that was 10% higher.

Again, many thought it was a done deal... except, once again, some of Qiagen's biggest shareholders.

They knew that the pandemic was a once-in-a-lifetime growth opportunity for their company. Hedge fund Davidson Kempner – which owns roughly 9% of the company – was one of the largest opponents of the deal.

"We are committed to realizing the significant underlying value that we see," it wrote in a release last summer stating its case.

Because of its nay, the proposed sale got only 47% of shareholder approval.

It is good news for today's buyers.

Thermo Fisher's offer puts a floor in the share price and keeps the door open for another high-premium offer.

As the excitement of what the COVID-19 crisis can do for the business wanes, the potential of a buyout grows. But I'm not recommending this company because shares may pop 10% or even 15% overnight. The potential is bigger than that.

Overseas Opportunities

Remember, our current Modern Asset Portfolio allocation to international blue chips is 10%.

And if real rates climb, we will increase the allocation to 15%. At the same time, we will introduce fresh exposure to emerging markets.

Even though we may not be there yet, the idea makes Europe-based Qiagen a smart buy. Its sales are spread across the globe.

Just over a third of revenue comes from Europe and Africa. North and South America are good for 44% of sales, while Asia is good for 19%. What's notable, though, is that the company's top seven emerging growth markets are good for 15% of sales... and are seeing annual sales growth of about 20%. That means we get strong exposure to China, Brazil, India, South Korea, Mexico, Russia and Turkey.

But, again, I'm not recommending you grab shares of this stock because I think rates are at the beginning of a sustained run higher... or that a suitor will come knocking tomorrow. Those are two strong aspects that greatly reduce our risk with the play. But ultimately, rates are low and likely to stay that way.

That is a big benefit for the company and its shareholders. That's because it hasn't just been an acquisition target... It's been on an aggressive buyout streak of its own.

Take the news late last year that Qiagen spent $248 million to buy all the remaining shares of a small molecular testing company. It used cheap money and the proceeds from its rabid COVID-19 business to make the move.

Prior to that, Qiagen proudly bought a leading precision medicine firm called N of One. Before that, it was Exiqon... and Ingenuity Systems... and DxS Limited... and Molecular Staging.

In all, my research uncovered 28 firms that Qiagen acquired... all helped by ultra-low interest rates. The rationale is clear...

Qiagen's product lineup is in high demand. It's a high-tech company providing a product that will save lives. And it's set to do well whether interest rates climb or stay in historically low territory.

It's always good to own a company that makes the products that may save our life someday. Let's jump in.

Action to Take: Buy shares of **Qiagen** (NYSE: QGEN) at the market's price. We will use our standard 25% trailing stop on the play... and add the company to the International Blue Chips portion of our Modern Asset Portfolio.

An Odd (and Helpful) Trick From the World's Richest Men

Want to be smarter? Wealthier? And happier?

There's no magic pill. But there is a magic skill.

You see, it's no secret that the world's most successful folks read a lot of books.

They don't just have money in common. Billionaires like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates are quick to tell us they aim to read a book a day.

Elon Musk does too.

They purposefully push off other high-dollar endeavors to sit down and read a book. They'll tell you it's what made them rich and keeps making them richer.

But with such busy lives, how do they get it done?

If we can't find time to exercise or clean the kitchen... how in the world are we to put a new book on the shelf each day?

More With Less

Most folks turn to speed-reading. Many super-reading advocates swear by the idea. And depending on your reading goals, it may work. But a word of warning... most speed-reading techniques are junk.

You may be able to turn more pages in a minute, but your comprehension will plummet. You'll be reading... but you won't be learning. And that's just a waste of time.

Science tells us that the average person reads about 200 to 400 words per minute. Breaking those numbers down a bit, we learn that we naturally spend about a quarter of a second actually looking at and recognizing each word. That's called "fixation." Once we've read the word, we move on. It's a process known as a "saccade." It takes about a tenth of a second.

As we do this a few times, our brain needs to take a quick break – just shy of half a second – to make sense of everything.

These are the basic "mechanical" moves of reading. They're biological and very tough to change. And don't forget, those figures come to us when we're reading simple text that's easy to understand. The figures plunge when the ideas get complex or comprehension is tough for whatever reason.

In other words, if you're forced to put your finger on a sentence and ponder its idea for a bit, your reading will slow. That's okay.

Good Writing = Good Reading

Fortunately, not everything we read is published by the dweebs of academia. It's written in simple words with repetitive ideas. In fact, a good writer will purposefully repeat himself in the name of boosting comprehension. It's why good writers say things twice. (See what I did?)

If your aim is to read fast, consider that repetition a grand gift. It allows us to speed up, push our biological limits and, this is important, let our comprehension slip just a bit. We'll make it up through the repetition of the idea.

In some regards, the human mind isn't all that different from a computer's memory. It can work only so fast. We've got only so much RAM built into us.

That's where the margin trick comes in.

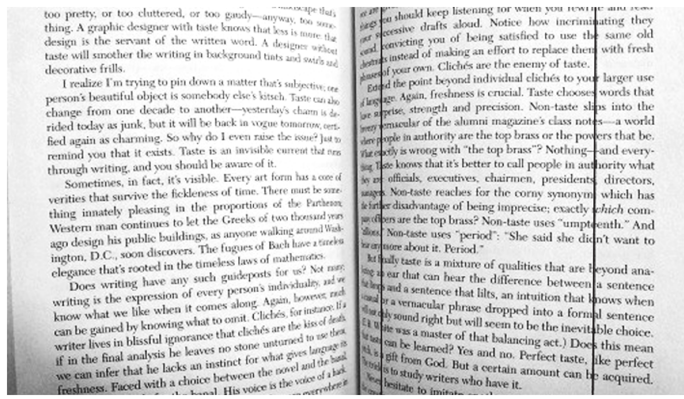
Try This

You see, if our eyes moving across the page is what slows us down so much, the key to reading faster becomes limiting eye movement.

That's why I recommend practicing a simple "page shrinking" technique. By widening the margins of our books and essentially not spending time on the words at the edge of the page, we don't need to move our eyes nearly as much... and therefore, we can get through each page much faster.

We simply recommend drawing some guidelines in your books.

They'll look like this:



The idea is simple. Focus only on the words within those lines. You may need to start your lines farther out on the page. But you'll quickly be able to find the ideal spot for them that speeds up your reading time, with the minimal amount of comprehension lost.

Again, your comprehension will suffer, but only by 10% or so. Meanwhile, your reading speed will nearly double. It's a fair trade-off... especially if you're reading to merely pick up the general idea – not master it.

Give it a try. When you do, you'll absolutely be on your way to joining those smart, speed-reading, rich guys. ■

Have You Seen Our New Websites?

Manward's got a fresh new look... and a new website! You can still access all of your paid subscriber benefits on the newly redesigned ManwardPress.com. But you can now find Andy's daily *Digest* essays... PLUS a whole lot more... at ManwardFinancial.com. Check it out today, and let us know what you think at mailbag@manwardpress.com.

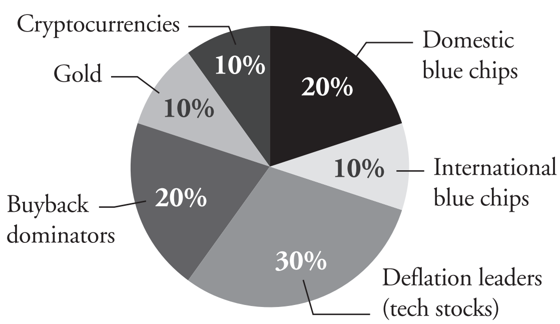
Modern Asset Portfolio

Negative Real Interest Rates

Company/Symbol	Rec. Date	Rec. Price	Curr. Price	Rating	Trailing Stop	Total Gains	Category
Afterpay (ASX: APT)	**Dec-20**	**A$95.30**	**A$121.00***	**Sell**	**Sell**	**26.97%**	**International Blue Chips**
Alarm.com (Nasdaq: ALRM)	Aug-20	$67.09	$88.61	Buy	$80.77	32.08%	Deflation Leaders
Avalara (NYSE: AVLR)	**Nov-20**	**$146.23**	**$141.49***	**Sell**	**Sell**	**-1.54%**	**Deflation Leaders**
CSX Corp. (Nasdaq: CSX)	Mar-21	$91.80	$91.94	Buy	$70.39	0.15%	Buyback Dominators and Domestic Blue Chips
KBR (NYSE: KBR)	Apr-20	$21.45	$32.62	Buy	$25.55	53.47%	Domestic Blue Chips
Monero (XMR)	Oct-20	$95.52	$229.69	Buy	$141.16	140.46%	Cryptos
Opendoor Technologies (Nasdaq: OPEN)	**Feb-21**	**$28.02**	**$23.64***	**Sell**	**Sell**	**-15.63%**	**Deflation Leaders**
Qiagen (NYSE: QGEN)	**Apr-21**	**New**	**New**	**New**	**25% TS**	**New**	**International Blue Chips**
Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. (NYSE: SMG)	May-20	$122.53	$234.85	Buy	$184.06	97.74%	Buyback Dominators
Physical Gold							Gold

MAP Allocation

Negative Real Interest Rates



Interest Rate Monitor

This Month	Last Month
-0.56%	-0.87%

10-Year Real Interest Rate

Dow 100K Portfolio

Company/Symbol	Rec. Date	Rec. Price	Curr. Price	Rating	Trailing Stop	Total Gains
10x Genomics (Nasdaq: TXG)	**Jan-21**	**$141.65**	**$152.01***	**Sell**	**Sell**	**8.53%**
CME Group (Nasdaq: CME)	Jun-20	$178.90	$207.12	Buy	$159.86	19.10%
Fiserv (Nasdaq: FISV)	Sep-20	$99.85	$124.12	Buy	$93.10	24.31%
Logitech (Nasdaq: LOGI)	Jul-20	$65.22	$101.81	Buy	$88.97	57.44%

Note: Do not put more than 5% of your total portfolio into these positions.

***Based on official sell date. Last Update: 03/16/21. Gains include dividends.**

Further Reading

"The Big Prediction Issue: A 'Global Money-Printing Orgy' Leads to a True 10X Opportunity." *Manward Letter*, January 2021: https://manwardpress.com/manward-letter/letter-issues/january-2021.

"Why COVID-19 Might Finally Usher in the Era of Healthcare Based on a Patient's Data." *MIT Technology Review*: https://www.technologyreview.com/2021/02/24/1018094/lee-hood-precision-health-care-covid-pandemic.

"Emerging Markets Will Outperform After COVID." *Barron's*: https://www.barrons.com/articles/mark-mobius-on-why-emerging-markets-will-outperform-after-covid-51613154205.

"CRISPR Editing of the GLI1 First Intron Abrogates GLI1 Expression and Differentially Alters Lineage Commitment." *Stem Cells*: https://stemcellsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/stem.3341.

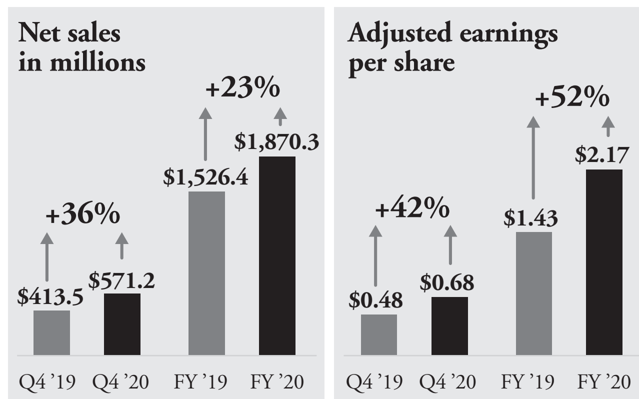
Appendix

Ready... Aim... Don't Fire: A Modern Asset Portfolio for Positive Rates

What our portfolio will look like when rates turn positive

Category	Negative Rates	0% to 1%
Buyback Dominators	20%	20%
Deflation Leaders	30%	**15%**
Domestic Blue Chips	20%	20%
International Blue Chips	10%	**15%**
Cryptocurrencies	10%	10%
Gold	10%	**5%**
Emerging Markets	N/A	**15%**

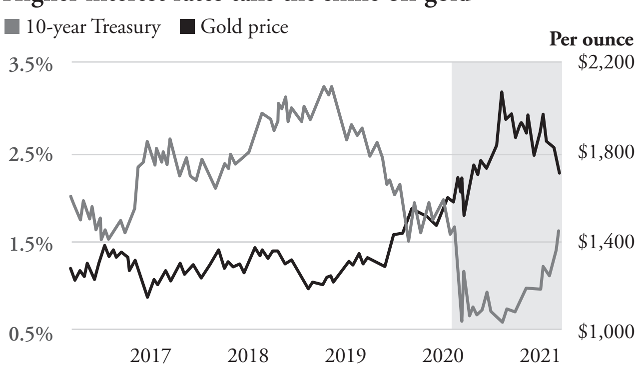
Qiagen Sales and Earnings Growth



Source: Company Reports Figures cited based on constant exchange rates

Losing Its Luster

Higher interest rates take the shine off gold



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Dethroning King Dollar

As the U.S. dollar loses value, crypto soars