

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

ORGAN OF THE NEW ENGLAND LABOR REFORM LEAGUE.

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THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

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TERMS.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

This department of the "Voice" is intended to contain the thoughts and sentiments of the People, prompted by a humane spirit, and clothed in their own language; which may be in some degree partial and conflicting; and for the views of which the Editor will not be considered responsible.

TELL ME YE GREEN HILLS.

BY M. C. JOHNSON.

O, say, ye old green hills of mine,
Ye old "Green Mountain" hills;
Where winds the noise of thine,
And flows the sweetest rills,
O, say, where not some spots on thee—
Spots, where nature's lavish hand hath been,
Where sings the lily honey bee,
And fragrant flowers adorn the glebe?
Are there not some bright and sunny spots,
Where our Fathers once hath dwelt?
Where in youth they reared the ragged lute,
And the first rays of friendship felt?
Are there not some harvest fields,
Where the farmer's spade hath been?
Where the golden Wheat at Autumn yields,
With pleasure to the husbandman.
Is there not some mountain side,
Some rock-bound mossy cliff,
Where the looper and rivulet, side by side,
Each other gently kiss?
Where the lark's wing sweep kindly by,
The fan of forest lawn,
And the pole moon walk the azure sky,
To visit grandeur's bow?
Ay, there, there are such golden scenes,
Elysian known and felt their power;
O'er the sweetens of a forest bayon,
"T was there I loved in youth to roam,
And sport on the meadows green;
Or sit away sister far from home,
And the flowers of fragrance gleam.
And I will love thee, thou rock-land hills,
Long as my life endures;
Will love thy sweet meandering rills,
Thy meadows and thy flowers,
And tho' far from thee, my native shore,
My lot through life may be;
But I will love thee never more,
But keep thee dear in memory.
Lowell, April 22, 1847.

IMPROMPTU ON THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

Safely and peacefully he went to rest,
As if pillowed on his mother's breast—
There the beautiful in his last sleep lay;
The spirit had fled—all lovely the clay.
An "angel sister," from the happy land,
Hovered in the midst of the weeping band,
Washed his face with his last dear glen,
Then to her breast home with the ethereal fen.
Go without mourning, bend o'er his bed,
Where death has rested so early his head;
Taken from suffering, freed from pain,
Gone up to heaven with Angels to reign.
Sweep labor that art laid on a dear one's face,
United in an icy embrace to rest;
For thy Saviour "who doeth all things well,"
Called you both from earth with him to dwell.
O'er his bed the light on his young head,
Scatter sweet flowers around his low bed.
Kneeling lovingly he was given;
A bid for earth—but a blossom for Heaven.
Lowell, April 18, 1847.

LETTERS UPON THE FACTORY SYSTEM.

No. 4.

MY DEAR FRIEND: you request me to present you with my reasons for the opinion expressed with regard to factory girls. I will most willingly do so, but must beg leave to defer it until another time; as I wish, in this notice some things contained in your last

letter. You do, indeed, startle me, Eliza, by the grave objections you urge, not against the present system, merely, by which the corporations regulate their operations with regard to those employed by them; but against the very existence of factories, themselves. And to me these objections seem the more strange, as I have never contemplated them as being otherwise than good in their operations, and effects. In sooth, are we not at this very moment, (you as well as I,) enjoying the fruits of those same factories? And what shall we do without them? Must we depend upon other nations for those goods we could manufacture ourselves, and they pay to foreign laborers what our own work-people have a right to claim as justly their due; besides the risk of paying six, or perhaps ten times as much as an article is worth, in case of a war which should interfere with commerce; as actually happened during the Revolution, and also the last war? I have seen specimens of dress, (some of my grandmother's and aunt's dresses, purchased at these periods,) which cost from 75 to a dollar a yard, then; but now could be purchased for 6 cts. Would you, or I, be willing to wear dresses made from such materials, think you? we would either of us be willing to be clad in the coarse manufactures from the domestic loom? Really Eliza; I cannot help picturing to myself how we should look in the quaint old frocks of our grandmothers! (I often preserve their memories!) inside of the real republican linsley-woolsey, tops and trowsers, and the like. And then would come the starch and buckrams, whalebones, &c., and the smooth, check apron with high necks, and shoulder-straps, and the blue and white check handkerchiefs; to which would be added the beautiful, thistle-sted, high-heeled shoes. And then, Eliza like dutiful granddaughters, bent upon perpetuating the glorious old customs of your good grandmothers, we must waltz away at the spinning-wheel, chatter at the loom, wash, bake, churn, brew, rick hay, chop corn, pick up potatoes, and in fine what could we not do? In truth, I am so much enamored with the picture, that when I arrived at the last period, I had quite forgotten myself, and was just upon the point of dropping my pen for the purpose of flying to the fire-place in order to save the poor old broken hearth from being deluged, scalded, burnt, bruised and battered, by the unceremonious ejection of the boiling, angry contents of a huge, ill-shaped, ill-managed soap-kettle upon its already being demolished face—when alas, for the ghosts of Dream-land I had no sooner turned my head than I had vanished. The big open fire-place, broken hearth, foaming kettle, log cabin—all was gone; and I, poor I, (excuse me) was left with nothing to do but to ransack my little store of ideas for something with which to edify my very dear friend. But, to have done with nonsense—parson me, however, one little word more, since I am in the vein of it—why then, do you not know a member of that most commendable and exemplary body of people called Shakers; since I infer that your sentiments with regard to dress, must so nearly accord with theirs? It is not on account of any matrimonial objection, is it? But, to have done with nonsense, once more; you object to the factory system because it produces a too great combination of wealth. You will admit that wealth is desirable for the individual? Now if several wealthy individuals should enter into a compact for the purpose of carrying forward some enterprise, and they should be incorporated; what evil could result from it, more than if each had invested his share of the wealth, which now goes to form a common capital, in some individual enterprise? There would be the same amount of wealth in the community, would there not; and if it influenced by evil, would not that evil be as freely and extensively felt through the operations of individuals as through these individuals were formed into a corporate body? I think, you say, too, that factories throw many out of employment. How can this be, and what kind of employment is thus superseded? At any rate, they offered opportunities for labor to very many who would be unprovided for. Another objection in your opinion, if that so many are drawn away from their homes by them. Methinks they must have some attraction, then notwithstanding my good friend has been pleased to favor them

with no low a place in her estimation. But permit me to ask you, how many of those, who come here have no home; but are forced to come here to seek one? You, also, assert that it unites them for other employment, I am at a loss how this can be, and shall have to look to you for information. You say, too, that the factory system subjects them to the caprice of employers, &c. Are they not every where under the necessity to be? even though the people for whom they work, may be somewhat capricious, or unreasonable in their commands? And as for the wages, they are much higher, (unless I am very much misinformed, than they are in any other department, of labor; and I think they might bear still further reduction, and yet be sufficient to supply the necessary wants of the operatives. Only see how many dollars are squandered away "pay-day," for articles of dress, which, even those in a comparative state of independence, would hardly think they could afford. All this is very well if they have the means, (for I am myself too fond of these things to wish to place any needless restriction upon them;) but if they are compelled to sacrifice health to obtain costly apparel how wisely would it be to dispense with it; especially when fashions are so continually changing. I must confess that I am myself beginning to be heartily tired of these frequent changes in the modes of dress, and I have more than a dozen times resolved that I would cut the acquaintance of Miss Will's Fashion-Parade, altogether, for a hundred times, obedient to the beck of the gay enchantress, I have started in swift pursuit of her little self, but as certain it is arrived where she was, she was as certain to be there. I hope her ladyship will pardon this bit of scandal, since I owe her no ill will, but you will just let me whisper in your ear that our fashions sometimes have faults. You are not expected to appropriate this, however. There I can never keep to one subject more than half a minute at a time, and here I have broken off in the midst of a grave discourse, (sermon if you will,) to have a trip after the Will of the Wisp; all like some poor wretched wight, I have often heard described, I am so bewildered I hardly know how to find myself; nor have I even a cap, neck-handkerchiefs or apron to turn, by which to effect a corresponding and agreeable turn, or return to my ideas; and as I am doubtful whether any other article would effect the same purpose; I must content myself to remain in the fog, and bogs of a misty imagination, until such time as I can find my way out. But, lest I should lead you into the same bewilderment as myself, I will now bid you an affectionate farewell, promising that, if you will have patience with me, I will be as grave as a dexton; in my next, and as candid as a judge. So good bye, friend E. (as the Quaker would say,) and except this from your most loving

Lowell, April 23, 1847.
P. S. I will not forget the rest of your epistle, but will notice it when I write again.

TO R.

In the last number of the Voice I received a reply from you to a communication that I addressed to the Voice some time since. I was very much pleased to receive the information which your letter contains from one as well qualified from long experience in factory life, to judge of its effects upon the physical, moral and intellectual well being of society, as myself.

You say that you have worked in the factories since you were between seven and eight years old. I think it is very wrong that children should be employed in the factories before they are, at the least, fifteen years old. They should have time to gain a large portion of their physical, moral and intellectual strength before they commence work in the factories. You speak of your want of schoolings; I can say the same of myself, I was thrown at an early age upon my own resources, and I have always had to work for my living, so that I never enjoyed the benefit of even a common school education. I would like to have your whole experience, (and of any other operatives, who see proper, to give theirs.) I will by no means doubt your veracity—I think you have no wish to deceive,

and as to the room that it would take, it could not very well be better occupied.

I am certain that the operatives work altogether too long; eight or ten hours a day is long enough for any person to work. It has been calculated that if every person in the community worked four hours a day, that there would be work enough done to afford a good living;—now if this calculation is correct, (and I think it is not far from the mark,) then all those who work thirteen-hours a day, work more than enough to afford themselves a two loafers a good living; consequently they are not paid quite one third in proportion to what they produce. I have no doubt that the operatives are in favor of a reduction of the hours of labor; and I think that those lazy idlers who are opposed to the reduction of the hours of labor would very soon be in favor of it, if by any means they could get justice done them, so that they would be compelled to work thirteen hours a day instead of living in luxury and idleness upon the bare earnings of others. I can look upon those in no better light than robbers and plunderers, who uphold the present unjust factory system; a system that is crushing the intellectual powers, blunting and corrupting the moral senses, and torturing the physical nature of thousands upon thousands of operatives upon the rack of toil and privation, until many of their victims expire under their oppression. I can see no reason to cut down the wages of the operatives; I think that the lowest wages at the lowest notch already, if must certainly be very injurious to the health of the operatives to work so many hours per day in the impure air of the factories. With regard to their cheating in the time and altering the clocks at the factories, I think that is an act of fraud and basality almost without a parallel in the history of fraud, injustice and tyranny.

Let me hear from you and all other friends of humanity when ever it is convenient for you to write, either public or private. It is always pleasant and agreeable for congenial spirits to communicate together.

Yours for Equal Rights,
JOHN CASE.

Bloomburg, Columbia Co. Pa.,
April 7th, 1847.

For the Voice of Industry.

THE BLINDNESS OF THE AGE.

The hurrying, head-long spirit of the present age often reminds me of the child, who in his eager pursuit after the butterfly forgot all danger, and when he saw the gilded insect flitting above the rapid rolling river, with a joyous laughing and sparkling eye, unmoored the light bark and floated on, on—unmindful of all save the gaily butterfly, till suddenly the roar of the waterfall comes booming on his ear, and terrified he looks round for some object to which he may cling. But in vain he stretches out his tiny hands, and shouts aloud for help,—the trees, rocks and green mossy bank go flitting by as the impetuous current hurries him down to the boiling cauldron into which he plunges and is lost forever. So is it with man in this imperious age, its wonder-loving, gold-seeking spirit, hurries him ever rapidly onward; and alas! that it should be so—not always upward. Like the boy he pursues some gilded insect till he finds himself in that strong current from which there is no returning. He may cast a longing eye to the rock mossy banks of literature, and his soul may be filled with high and holy thoughts that he would fain pause for a moment by the way-side to recruit, but in vain, the current, on which his life-boat is floating, never turneth backward. A voice from the depths of his inner being may respond to that which cries aloud: Lift up and educate the laboring classes; let them go forth as men and women and exert their part in the great drama of human life. Let them think, but give them a chance to record their thoughts if need be; for who may tell how many a mighty one hath lain hidden long in the bosom of some obscure laborer. O, give the mental as well as the physical a chance to work; let that which unites us to the great Architect of the universe be developed, and perfected as well as the earthly cast which contains it.

I know that it hath been said that some kinds of labor are favorable to the development of thought—I know, too, that this

true. There is no such a thing as happiness in idleness. As well might one think to be happy when suspended by a hair over some yawning gulf, into which he expected momentarily to be precipitated. But the present system of labor casts into both body and soul. The long weary hours, spun out to the utmost, entirely unfit the mind for action—Who, let me ask, after thirteen hours of steady application to monotonous work, can sit down and apply her mind to depend long continued thought? We are so constituted that we need relaxation, and if this cannot be obtained during working hours it must be in those hours in which we are not required to work, and if so, where is the opportunity for mental improvement?

Is it right to spend so much time on the earthly that soon must perish, and let the immortal go hungering and thirsting down to the grave, with its deep, earnest thoughts, all unawakened; or if awakened, only that they may lie out untaunted in the cold, dark night of ignorance. Is there no system that can be adapted which will enable the ever thirsting mind to roam over this fair earth of ours and cull knowledge from its hidden joys, its countless myriads of swarming life, its fresh carpets of green, its silvery winding streams and its blue dome, spread out and spangled with unnumbered worlds, that teach to this sin-stained earth lessons of trust and holy love? O, there is wonderful skill and power dissipated in each insect whose busy hum greets our ear at the twilight hour; in each bright-eyed flower that lifts its dewy head from the earth; in each blade of grass, each drop of water, in their form so "carefully and wonderfully made;" and in each and every thing that a Father's hand hath spread around his cringing children. O, then, let those children have the opportunity of drawing nearer to that Father though his works, till their mind shall become assimilated to the great and perfect mind which formed and doeth all things well.

PHENY.

Hooksett, March 29th, 1847.

NEW ENGLAND LABOR REFORM LEAGUE.

Tuesday P. M., Met according to adjournment, H. P. Trask in the Chair.

A suggestion, offered by Mr. Lovejoy, to consider the expediency of having a usuary of land in city or village, this would have a tendency to promote the happiness and interest of the Laboring Classes.

The above was ably sustained by N. W. Brown, of Lynn, recommending this as a good plan to carry out the principle of Reform.

Mr. Hosmer of Boston, introduced a pamphlet containing an address to the members of the Labor Reform League of N. E., on the condition of Labor.

Mr. Townsend of Providence, spoke of the importance of circulating this among the members of the League, and others who should be informed on this important subject, the condition of Labor; that it contained truths which should be understood and adopted.

Moved to appoint some place to hold the next Convention.

Mr. Lund suggested Woonsocket, R. I. as the place had been heretofore appointed. Many friends of the cause were there, and expressed an opinion that the working classes in this section knew but little of Reform.

Mr. Hosmer of Boston, objected to the above, expressing an opinion that Boston was decidedly the best place; it was the most central, and contained an abundance of friends to working men, who could ably advocate their cause.

W. F. Young suggested that the board of Directors should attend to this matter, expressing an opinion that it should be in that place where the most good would result, and that some one must be responsible for the business.

This was strenuously opposed by Mrs. Townsend as seeming to be too much on the system of Corporation.

Mr. Trask ably supported the motion by Mr. Young.

Voted to hold the next Convention at Newburyport.

The following gentlemen were appointed a

WHAT SHALL BE DONE?

In answer to our important interrogatory of last week, "what shall be done," we propose to consider means of remedy. There seems to be a fruitful vein in our country, which the provisions of the funders of this government for the purpose have been very partially able to tap.

We speak of the present system of landholding, which encourages capitalists to possess themselves of the broad face of our beautiful land, or oblige the producer to pay them an exorbitant price for the privilege of delving for his own support.

The abolition of the law of primogeniture and entail was designed to prevent the accumulation of unbounded wealth in the hands of the few. It always has been understood by political economists, that great wealth in the few and poverty in the masses were conditions totally incompatible with successful republicanism.

In their souls they had framed, with this understanding of their fathers left every man free to scatter his property among as many heirs as he pleased! But this provision has fallen very short of the mark.

But few men of the generation that founded our government, had penetrated to the radical cause of the perpetual difference existing in the conditions of men, and hence their curative and preventive was comparatively futile.

There are higher objects to be obtained in life than hard labor—continuous labor—great are its blessings, and the necessities for it. Labor alone does not confer happiness, wealth or enjoyment.

There is a certain equilibrium and buoyancy to be kept up between body and mind, for the activity and health of each. The mind should have sufficient hours of leisure for its improvement, in order that the physical efforts may be properly directed, and for the acquisition of those higher attainments, which mere physical force, however long continued, and which physical however great, cannot of themselves procure.

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We are highly pleased to perceive this movement among Mechanics and others, indicating an activity in regard to their personal rights and condition, and a laudable desire for future improvement.

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grind the faces of the poor generally. We do not say that Mr. Crowningshield does these things, but it can't be denied that the "upper" class to which he belongs is guilty of all these little weaknesses, and a few others of like character.

The wages of the carpet weavers at the manufactories in Thompsonville and Fairfield, Conn., have been lately advanced.—(Springfield Paper.)

So the new tariff worked exactly as you said it would. You said it would bring down American laborers to the condition of European pauper laborers.

A COMPLAINTING PARISHORE.—A parishioner complained to his pastor that his pew was too far from the pulpit, and that he must purchase one nearer.

A COOL EXCESS.—A gentleman was the other day looking attentively at some amusing caricatures in the window of a paint shop, when on a sudden he felt some one at his pocket.

Too Much Truth.—A young lady observed:—(When I go to the theatre, I am very careless of my dress, as the audience are too attentive to the play to observe my wardrobe; but when I go to church I am very particular in my outward appearance, as most people go there to see how their neighbors dress and depict themselves.)

to improve man physically, morally and intellectually, will be the object of this Journal.

will be set forth in the most practical and instructive manner, fully illustrating the exact location of the organs, with full directions for learners who wish to acquire a thorough knowledge of the science.

is by nature as perfect as a God could make her, yet her education and habits are generating her to arrest which, and to develop her natural capabilities, powers, and duties, will be a leading feature of this work.

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