



ORGAN OF THE NEW ENGLAND LABOR REFORM LEAGUE.

VOLUME III.]

LOWELL, (MASS.) FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 1847.

[NUMBER 1.]

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

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Wm. F. Young, Editor.

TERMS.

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POETRY.

TASMIN.

When swift reform's all the rage, And critics get the best...

BRACK.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE MAN THAT KILLED HIS NEIGHBORS.

By L. Maria Child.

It is curious to see how a man's spiritual state reflects itself in the people and animals around him...

neighbourhood, he had brought three suits in succession. Joe said he had returned a spade he had borrowed...

down the bars of Reuben's own corn-field, and the poor beast walked in, and feasted as he had not done for many a year.

patience, except whiffing the smoke through his pipe a little faster and fiercer than usual. But when the boy was going out of the door...

you know that big ripe melon down at the bottom of the garden? You may as well carry it over there in the morning.

Poor Joe had grown more intemperate and more quarrelsome, till at last nobody would employ him. About a year after the memorable incident of the water-melon, some one stole several valuable hides from Mr. Green. He did not mention the circumstance to any one but his wife; and they both had reason for suspecting that Joe was the thief. The next week, the following anonymous advertisement appeared in the newspaper of the county.

"Whoever stole a lot of hides on Friday night, the 5th of the present month, is hereby informed the owner has a sincere wish to be his friend. If poverty tempted him to this false step, the owner will keep the whole transaction a secret, and will gladly put him in the way of obtaining money by means more likely to bring him peace of mind."

This singular advertisement, of course, excited a good deal of remark. There was much debate whether or not the thief would avail himself of the friendly offer. Some said he would, to be a green horn if he did; for it was manifestly a trap to catch him. But he who had committed the dishonest deed alone knew whence that benevolent offer came; and he knew that Simeon Green was no man to set traps for his fellow-creatures.

A few nights afterwards, a timid knock was heard at Simeon's door, just as the family were retiring to rest. When the door was opened, Joe Smith was seen on the steps, with a load of hides on his shoulders. Without raising his eyes, he said in a low humble tone, "I have brought them back Mr. Green. Where shall I put them?"

"Wait a moment till I can light a lantern and I will go to the barn with you," he replied. "Then you will come in, and tell me how it happened.—We will see what can be done for you."

"Mrs. Green knew that Joe often went hungry and had become accustomed to the stimulus rum. She therefore hastened to make hot coffee, and brought from the closet some cold meat and pie.

When they returned from the barn, she said "I thought you might feel better for a little warm supper, neighbor Smith. Joe turned his back towards her, and did not speak. He leaned his head against the chimney, and after a moment's silence, he said, in a choked voice, "It was the first time I ever stole anything, and I have felt very bad about it. I don't know how it is, I didn't think once I should ever come to be what I am. But I took to quarrelling, and then to drinking.—Since I began to go down hill, every body gives me a kick. You are the first man that has offered me a helping hand. My wife is feeble, and my children starving. You have sent them a meal, God bless you! and you stole the hides from you meaning to sell them, the first chance I could get.—But I tell you Mr. Green, it is the first time I ever deserved the name of thief."

"Let me be the last, my friend," said Simeon, pressing his hand, kindly. "The secret shall remain between ourselves. You are young and can make up for lost time. Come now give me a promise that you will not drink one drop of intoxicating liquor for one year, and I will employ you to-morrow, at good wages. Mary will see to your family early in the morning, and perhaps we can find some employment for them also. The little boy can at least pick up stones. Bateat a bit now, and drink some hot coffee. It will keep you from wanting to drink any thing stronger to night. You will find it hard to abstain at first, Joe, but keep up a brave heart, for the sake of your wife and children, and it will soon become easy. When you feel the need of coffee, tell my Mary, and she will always give it you.

Joe tried to eat and drink, but the food seemed to choke him. He was nervous and excited. After an ineffectual effort to compose himself, he laid his head on the table and wept like a child.

After a while, Simeon persuaded him to bathe his head in cold-water, and he ate and drank with a good appetite. When he went away, the kind-hearted host said, "Try to be well, Joseph, and you will always find a friend in me."

The poor fellow pressed his hand, and replied, "I understand now how it is you kick bad neighbors."

"He entered into Mr. Green's services the next day, and remained in it many years, an honest and faithful man."

As for Lawrence he made a donation of fifty thousand dollars to Harvard University, an act that is heralded far and near by the press, and indeed it is a noble novelty. A few days since, we saw a little news-boy meet an emigrant who had just landed on our shores. He was weak and thin, from hunger and destitution, and had scarcely looked enough to cover his body. He stood and loomed vaguely in at a neighboring restaurant. The little news-vender eyed him, and fumbled in his own pocket, and even let a passer-by go unobserved, while he watched the poor man. At last he stepped up to him, and gathering up the whole of his small savings for that day, he emptied the copper and nips into the poor man's hands, and tried to help him, crying his paper again. That boy, perhaps, was the possessor of one or two dollars.—By all. About Lawrence's year of inebriety is scarcely principal out of the question, is scarcely worth of 200,000.—*Odd Fellow.*

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

WHAT A LABOR FOR!

The Reader or Man to himself, to a permanent home on the earth, the laborer of industry, the producer of bread for himself, the laborer of toil, to an equivalent for his labor, the producer, to the best opportunities for education, to a location of his own.

LOWELL.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 1847.

INDUSTRIAL REFORM PLEDGE.

"We whose names are annexed, desirous of restoring to man his Natural Right of Land, do solemnly agree that we will not vote for any man for the Presidency (or Congress) who will not pledge himself in writing to prevent all further encroachments on the Public Lands of the United States, and to cause them to be laid out in lots and lots for the free and exclusive use of settlers, or for any man for the Government of the Legislature who will not so pledge himself to the Freehold of the Public Lands, to a Limitation of the quantity of land to be granted by the House of Representatives in this State, to the exemption of any individual from any mortgage or mortgagee, and to a limitation of the number of public works or public works or establishments chartered by law."

REPEAL OF THE NEW POST OFFICE LAW.

Resolved, That the Post Office of this paper has been removed by No. 7 of the Central Street.—Its former place of publication. Persons wishing to insert their names in the paper or insert their names in the paper are invited to call.

ALL HAIL CONNECTICUT TOO!

"The land of steady habits" for Home-stead Exemption! Last week we had the glorious privilege of reading the passage of the "Ten Hour Bill" in New Hampshire, and now Connecticut comes in with the HOME-STEAD EXEMPTION LAW!—Thus the cause of THE PEOPLE progresses! Connecticut has nobly taken the lead in measures that will do more towards obliterating poverty, intemperance and crime and elevating society, than all the class legislation for the last ten years.—The following correspondence from the "Young America" will give our readers a concise idea of what has been accomplished.

To the Editor of Young America.

WINCHESTER, Conn., June 30, 1847.

SIR—At last our "Assembled Wisdom" has divided. Though not so continuous in its strength, as that of New York, its session has been unusually long. As a bright oasis in Legislation, which, in the struggle of competition and the rending isolated interests of civilization, must necessarily be a desert to Humanity, in "Home-stead Bill" has passed. Limited as this Bill is in its provisions, still we believe it to be the wisest which the Legislature of this State can at present allow, and establishes a good precedent for future action. It also redeems Connecticut in a measure from her conservative, dilatory course of law-making, which has long signified her in disgrace. The bill passed by a struggle unprecedented on the part of the Senate, and we think might have been deferred for a long time, except for certain issues, which hung as by a hair on the neck of "Log-rolling."

I annex the Bill as passed. You perceive its caption is "Proposed Amendment." The Bill as this amendment reads, a Law. You perceive in the 3d Section, "Existing Exemption" laws are referred to. Those laws exempt household furniture, mechanics' tools, &c., to the amount of six or seven hundred dollars. I will enclose a printed form of the Bill. Yours, in the Cause, L. W. CASE.

Senate Document.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

Sec. 1. So much of any homestead, tenement, being the property of any one person having family, as shall not exceed in value the sum of three hundred dollars, and as well reasonably and conveniently accommodate only such person and family, and such live stock as is now exempt from any warrant and execution, shall be, and the same hereby is, exempt from being taken by any warrant or execution for any debt whatsoever.

Sec. 2. That whatever structure, apartment, tenement, addition or repair, made from time to time in reference to said homestead or dwelling, shall only be reasonably necessary to accommodate as aforesaid (the said homestead) or dwelling may thereby, in some slight measure, become enhanced in value, shall in like manner be exempt from any warrant or execution for debt: Provided, That all structures, apartments, tenements, additions, or repairs not reasonably necessary for the accommodation aforesaid, may be liable to be taken and disposed of for debt, duty or tax, in the same manner as if this act had not passed: Provided, That the provisions of this act shall extend only to the exemption of all aforesaid of said homestead or dwelling, and to such structures, apartments, tenements, additions or repairs, as are acquired or made from and after the passage of this act; and provided also, that all existing laws exempting property from execution or warrant for debt or taxes shall not be affected by the provisions of this act.

Sec. 3. That all acts, or parts of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same are, hereby repealed.

We learn that Senator Hall of Litchfield county, was instrumental in bringing this subject before the Connecticut Legislature, and securing the passage of the Home Exemption Law.—"Young America" remarks as follows upon its passage.

The law of Connecticut, in addition to

previous laws exempting personal property, will exempt nearly one thousand dollars' worth of property from liability for debt, and will thus be almost equivalent to that desirable consummation, the entire abolition of the collection of debt, still the exemption law is not complete. Three hundred dollars' worth of a firm is not sufficient; it should be forty, eighty, or 100 acres, or a village lot of a given size. But the principle is adopted, and the measure can be improved. Henceforth in Connecticut it is to be more exact for than money. Let her now adopt the growing principle of Land Limitation, and become the first really free State.

Of course New York, and the other adjoining States, must immediately follow suit. They do, houses must be of much more value in Connecticut than in other States, and situation being equal. Men who have Homesteads to sell in Connecticut will, advertising, put Home-stead Exemption prominent among their advantages; and men desirous of purchasing Homesteads, of course, buy only in Connecticut, till other States pass or show a design to pass similar laws.

What State comes next?

A PLEA FOR THE AGED.

A Sermon delivered in the First Baptist Meeting House in Lowell, June 27, 1847, by Daniel C. Eddy, Pastor.

We have received from the publisher B. C. Sergeant, Central street, a copy of the above sermon, which we have perused with interest. Its style is clear, flowing and happy, and many of its sentiments find with us a ready response. Any thing that tends to create a higher respect for age—for the "hoary head" and trembling frame in the year of life we esteem and cherish. But the author, most unfortunately, has coupled with this subject others altogether foreign, not to say irrelevant. What real analogy there exists between men in office, governments and churches, and the aged, we cannot discover. Man claims our honor and regards as Man—the workmanship of Divinity, to whom Omnipotence gave life, reason and intelligence. If, therefore, we respect and honor not Man as such—but a brother of the same great family, entitled to its equal privileges, neither shall we his creator. Ourselves, as the author justly contends, claims our sympathy and regard in a peculiar degree. As man passes on through the autumn of life and is about to leave us for the unexplored future, the heart's best affections should be brought and laid upon the paternal altar. We should honor him for what good he has done, and forgive the errors he may have committed while travelling through a world of blinded selfishness and strife. But governments and churches are only the futile schemes and devices of profligate men. They claim our reverence, not our humanity or perfected institutions beyond improvement, but as instrumentalities of progress, and not unalike to exert superstitious and degrading influences. We should respect and reverence governments and churches, and all social institutions, just in the degree they are calculated to improve, elevate and perfect humanity, but no false alms of regard for things of religion, or men in office, should pause us to reverence Manhood in the Church or the oppressor in the State. It is said with a degree of earnestness that we "must cherish things sacred in the church, things noble in the government." But are we to do so by reverencing a time-serving religion and corrupt administrators of government? To "cherish things sacred in the church," we must cease to respect her conformity to the caprice and selfishness of the world, and demand for her fruits of the Gospel of Truth. To "cherish things noble in the government," we must manifest our love for a "noble government" by refusing to respect the votaries of Slavery, Aggression and wrong, whether they appear as the emissaries of foreign despots or as the Chief Magistrates of our nominal Republic. The highest dictates of good sense, reason, or Revelation, claim no reverence for institutions, either religious or political, that are not calculated to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people, or for men in office who prostitute their office or lend their sanction to human Slavery and degradation. No man can be a true lover of his country who reverences rank and office merely as such—desirability of that virtue and those high purposes which render them honorable; and blind indeed must be the man who pretends coming danger to political virtue and religious purity by "the tendency of the age to break down all distinctions of rank and office." On the contrary, we see in its signs of the "good time coming" when men shall respect merit more than rank which is but the genuine stamp, when the remaining vestiges of artificial feudalism, which have cursed the world for ages past, showing no respect to youth, manual or age, shall be swallowed up in a rational and philosophical equality, founded upon the moral intelligence of the people. The masses have revered a Democracy of rank and office that has robbed them of their rights and intelligence long enough, they are now losing their respect for that which has no respect for them, and ask for a Democracy of deeds! One which shall give their children a home in their infancy instead of treating them as intruders and aliens in childhood and youth, quantity, education and development, in

manhood the right to labor and the products thereof and in old age, protection and solace. Would we reverence and respect Age, we must reverence humanity; we must respect the child in its mother's arms, the youth in the streets, the man in the field or workshop, and then old age will be honored and cared for, instead of being turned away like some "poor old horse," worn out with labor, to die. And to accomplish so desirable an object we must not reverence institutions, political or religious, "men in office," political or religious, who do not practically reverence Humanity and its rights.

A NEW VOLUME.—With this number we commence a new volume of "The Voice of Industry." We have survived this year of labor sacrificing toil, in the cause of Labor Reform. We have lived longer than many of our friends predicted, or enemies desired, and find our paper in a more prosperous condition than at any previous period. We have lived long enough to see a great change in public sentiment on the necessity of, a thorough and radical Reform in the condition of the Laboring Classes, and in producing which, we believe our humble sheet has not been entirely unavailing. When we commenced our labor but little interest was manifested in New England upon the measures we advocate. We had the satisfaction of knowing that two of them have been acknowledged by the political action of the New England States, and that the entire community is agitated upon the subject; and while we were alone in raising a Voice in behalf of a strong array of the Press of New England in their favor. Our usefulness for the future will depend upon the aid we continue to receive from our friends and patrons, which in some instances has, heretofore, been generous. We wish to make the Voice what we never have been, to wit, a sheet that we should make it, if the working men and women of New England will furnish the means.—What say they! for thorough and radical Reform in the condition of Labor to the existence of which we believe our humble Sheet has.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTIONS.—The late election in Congressional Districts Nos. 1 and 3, has resulted in favor of the Whigs and Independents. Amos Tuck, Independent, elected in No. 1 by about fifteen hundred majority, and Gen. James Wilson, Whig, in No. 3, by about three hundred majority. New Hampshire will now have one of the ablest members in the House. We hope he will prove as high in mind and deeds as he is in stature.

One hundred guns were fired by the Mechanics and Workmen of Nashua, N. H., on receiving the news of the passage of the "Ten Hour Bill." A large collection of people assembled and gave their cheers for Gov. Williams and the New Hampshire Legislature.

We have received the Report of the Commissioners of the State Manual Labor School, through Dr. J. W. Graves, one of the Trustees of the institution. We feel interested in the subject and for want of time must defer a more extended notice till another time.

WORKING MEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION.—The Supreme Division of this institution assembled at Boston on Thursday of last week. We understand that some official favor was shown to "Young America" and the Voice, which we hope will be practically demonstrated. Our endeavors shall be to render an equivalent.

Books. A beautifully finished pair of Bibles, manufactured and presented to the Lecturers' Fund by Mr. L. T. Stetson, of Randolph Mass., was sold at the office of Y. A., to the first person who fitted, at the maker's price, \$3.50. Our friends at Randolph will be able to furnish the Protective Unions with wares of this description.—Y. America. We hope, those Unions in want of Bibles will bear the above in mind, instead of purchasing of the non-producers. Brother Stetson makes good work, which he offers at purchaser's prices.

The veteran, cautious, and conservative Editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman—a leading Agricultural paper in Massachusetts—is out in favor of "land limitation" and the "homestead exemption."—Harbinger.

We hope the "Ploughman" will turn over some of the conservative soil of Massachusetts.

A smart thunder storm passed over the city on Tuesday afternoon. One house and two men were struck by lightning, but not seriously injured.

"Land Monopoly would disfavor, whether on the part of Government or individuals. Hence I would have the public lands thrown open to actual settlers, free of cost. I would add under this head that EVERY MAN'S HOME SHOULD BE UNSALEABLE, except by his own consent."—Gerrit Smith.

THE TEN HOUR SYSTEM.

We rejoice to perceive that the mechanics in various sections of the country are endeavoring to procure the adoption of this system in their several trades. We rejoice at this, because we have long been impressed with the conviction that nothing more was needed than that the evils resulting from the old system should be presented, with truthfulness and vigor, to effect a most salutary and beneficial change. We also joyfully exchanged that the iron-workers of Cincinnati, the carpenters of Nashville, and the painters of this city, are using vigorous efforts to bring about this much needed reform. The Nashville mechanics, in an address to the public, thus forcibly present the matter to their attention:

"We are flesh and blood; and need recreation. It is estimated by political economists that five hours' labor per day by each individual would be sufficient for the support of the human race. Surely, then, we do our share when we labor ten. We have social feelings which must be gratified. We have minds, and they must be improved. We are lovers of our country, and must have time and opportunity to study its interests. Shall we live and die knowing nothing but the rudiments of our trades? Is knowledge useless to us, that we should be debarred the means of obtaining it? Would we be less adept as workmen, were the trade of which we are members less respectful or useful, or would the community of which we are members suffer loss because we are enlightened?"

"These few sentences and questions contain the whole argument of this question; and no man who looks candidly at the subject, and observes the effect of the present system upon the minds of the mechanics of this country, can fail to be convinced that both justice and expediency (for, unfortunately, expediency seems to be as much considered, now-a-days, as justice) require that some relief should be afforded this class of our citizens from the continual labor, the ceaseless round of "work work, work," to which they are subjected. The vast difference in intelligence, in morality, in manhood, between those classes of mechanics who labor but ten hours per day, and those who are required to work from "early morn to dewy eve," is too generally obvious to the most casual observer.—It has been our fortune, in former years, to be connected with a large number of the young mechanics of this city, and our opportunities for observing the effects of the two systems have been somewhat extensive, and we unhesitatingly say, that, in intellect, in manners, in fact, in all things which give respect and dignity to man—the former are, as a class, infinitely superior to the latter.—Nor is this all that is surprising. What possible opportunity for improvement can a man have who labors, as many do, from twelve to fifteen hours a day, in one unvarying round, to which the monotony of a tread-mill is the only adequate comparison? True, they have their evenings, or rather nights; for, at this season of the year especially, there are no evenings to many mechanics; but, wearied and spent with the toils of the day, what heart can they bring to any intellectual effort? There are men, we admit, who, like Burth, have surmounted even such obstacles, and attained an exalted place among the great minds of the age; but who can tell with what groanings of spirit, with what faintness of heart, close bordering on despair, with what sacrifice of future health and consequent happiness, this station has been secured? Alas! how does the world know, when the object of its plaudits stands upon the lips of fame, what travail and sorrow attended his upward course. Alas! we not doubt if the prize be worth the sacrifice?"

"There is another consideration connected with this question, and one, too, of the utmost importance. A certain class of politicians are continually agitating the danger liable to result to our institutions from the ignorance existing among the great mass of our people of the principles of our government, and the proper means for its security and preservation. They forget that the opportunities for obtaining such knowledge are denied to but comparatively few, the great mass having but little time to devote to the investigation of political questions, or the proper consideration of their duties as citizens. They forget, that the simple moral maxims, so often, uttered by every man whose eyes have ever rested on a primer.—Honesty is the best policy; may prove a greater safeguard to political freedom, than all the learning of a Vatican, or the diplomatic cunning of a Talleyrand. For ourselves, we have no fear for our country's safety from the cause; yet we cannot but sympathize with the sentiment in the address from which we quote.—We are lovers of our country, and must have time and opportunity to study its interests." We deeply feel the necessity which exists that those upon whom rests the destiny of this republic should have more opportunities than they now enjoy for obtaining the knowledge necessary to their hands.

"We commend this movement, wherever it may extend, to the warm sympathy and hearty co-operation of all those who would see their fellow-citizens, to whatever class they may belong, free, honorable, and enlightened men.—Ecclesiast.

Do not despise, but pity the weak.

LETTER FROM GERRIT SMITH.

To the Editor of the Liberty Press:

On the right hand and on the left, I am urged to decline the nomination...

1st. Am I to say, that people shall not vote for me? But would not people be very apt to do as they please...

2d. Am I to say, that I disapprove of the nomination? But I said so in advance of the nomination...

3d. Am I to say, that, if elected, I would not accept the office? But, this I cannot say...

4th. Am I to scorn the nomination, because it was not a Convention of the Liberty Party...

5th. Am I to turn contemptuously from the nomination, because the new party which gave it to me, is made up, in part, of seceders from the Liberty Party?

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that the principle, in the light of which the Liberty Party was organized, and by the force of which it undertook to accomplish its object...

That the equal rights of all men has, from the first, been the avowed principle of action of the Liberty Party, is not to be denied.

A word for those who think that the Liberty Party should never change its action, and I have done. The party, which refuses to respect the changes in its circumstances...

Reterboro, July 3, 1847.

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

WHAT WE LABOR FOR: THE RIGHTS OF MAN to himself, to a permanent home on the earth...

LOWELL:

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 23, 1847.

INDUSTRIAL REFORM LEAGUE.

As we human beings are unwearying desirers of restoring to man his Natural Right to Land, do solemnly agree, that we will not vote for any man for the Presidency...

REPEAL OF THE NEW POST OFFICE LAW.

The Post-Office Office of this paper has been removed to No. 26 Central street—its former place of publication.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR.

Much is said of the dignity of Labor. The democrat who appears before the people as a candidate for office, talks eloquently of the dignity and virtues of Labor.

dom and efficiency than Mayor Bancroft, but whose nomination to that office would be ridiculed, because they are not actually working men...

Now we must, most respectfully, differ with the first clause of the above quotation. That many came to this city in its infancy, poor and penniless...

If it were not so—if the hard labor of the workman and woman is thus rewarded, why do we see so many, like Mayor Bancroft, who avoid hard labor with their own hands...

This talk about buying stock in mills and houses by the workmen and operatives of Lowell, by the hard labor of their own hands, is mere popular cant.

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THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

This great meeting for the encouragement of River and Harbor Improvements in the North West, by Congress, has just closed.

Let these remarks from one of their party be well pondered by the Whigs of Lowell.

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then addressed the Convention on matters connected with the objects of this assembly. Mr. Woodbury, Mr. East, Mr. Buffum, was loudly called for by the Convention...

On concluding, the re-reading of the above resolutions, presented by Mr. Hall to the Convention, was called for, and cried out, "Whigs!" "Whigs!" followed, but he did not appear to be moved, although he had been present during the day.

A. D. Murchison, Esq., a delegate from Illinois, moved that Mr. Hall be requested to furnish a copy of his able speech for publication, which was adopted...

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