





THE MARTYRED APOSTLES OF LABOR.

The following article appeared in "The Appeal to Reason," Chicago, February, 1906, and is reproduced here for the benefit of our readers.

The century now closing is luminous with great achievements. In every department of human endeavor marvelous progress has been made.

They were the first martyrs in the cause of industrial freedom, and one of the supreme duties of our civilization, if indeed we may boast of having been redeemed from savagery, is to rescue their names from calumny and do justice to their memory.

It was a plot, satanic in all its conception, to wreak vengeance upon defenseless men, who, not being guilty of the crime charged in the indictment, were found guilty of exercising the inalienable right of free speech in the interest of the toiling and groaning masses, and thus they became the first martyrs to a cause which, fertilized by their blood, has grown in strength and sweep and influence from the day they yielded up their lives and liberty in its defense.

There was even in 1886, when the Haymarket meetings were held, the capitalist grasp was upon the throats of workmen and its fetters were upon their limbs. There was even in 1886, when the Haymarket meetings were held, the capitalist grasp was upon the throats of workmen and its fetters were upon their limbs.

Such pictures of horror our martyrs saw in Chicago, as others have seen them in all the great centers of population in the country. But, like the noble minstrel, they proceeded to recite their discoveries and with him moaned:

Such pictures of horror our martyrs saw in Chicago, as others have seen them in all the great centers of population in the country. But, like the noble minstrel, they proceeded to recite their discoveries and with him moaned:

LOOKING BACKWARD.

side. The poor, dumb victims, bound and gagged, had but to await their bloody fate. At the grates of their cells the hounds of hell snarled and growled with savage ferocity to lap their blood.

On that day history turned harlot and the fair face of truth was covered with the hideous mask of falsehood.

The men who perished upon the scaffold as felons were labor leaders, the first martyrs to the class struggle in the United States.

It is profoundly significant that Franklin B. Gowen, president of the Philadelphia & Reading railway, and chief prosecutor and persecutor of the "Mollie Maguire" sought in suicide a refuge from the avenging Nemesis that pursued him.

On May 1, 1886, hundreds of thousands of workers in various parts of the country were out on strike to enforce the eight-hour work-day.

These two fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

These fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

These fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

Great Thinkers on The Gallows

For the just man the scaffold is his glory's bed.—Lamartine.

It is crime which brings shame, and not the scaffold.—Cornelle.

Better build schoolrooms for "the boy," than cells and gibbets for "the man."—Miss Cook

Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne.—Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.

These two fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

These two fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

These two fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

These two fellow workers are the victims of a capitalist conspiracy. Mainly upon the perjured testimony of the Citizens' alliance of Goldfield, Nev., they were sentenced to penitentiary on a charge of murder, Preston for twenty-five years and Smith for ten years.

MARTIN IRONS, MARTYR.

It was in 1886 that Martin Irons, as chairman of the executive board of the Knights of Labor of the Gould southwest railway system, defied capitalist tyranny, and from that hour he was doomed. All the powers of capitalism combined to crush him, and when at last he succumbed to overwhelming odds, he was hounded from place to place until he was ragged and foot-sore and the pangs of hunger gnawed at his vitals.

For fourteen long years he fought single-handed the battle against persecution. He tramped far, and among strangers, under an assumed name, sought to earn enough to get bread. But he was tracked like a beast and driven from a shelter. For this "poor wanderer of a stormy day" there was no pity. He had stood between his class and their oppressors—he was brave, and would not flinch; he was honest, and would not sell; this was his crime, and he must die.

When at the darkest hour Jay Gould sent word to Martin Irons that he wished to see him, the answer came, "I am in Kansas City." Gould did not have gold enough to buy Irons. This was the greatest crime of labor's honest leader. The press united in ferocious denunciation. Every lie that malignity could conceive was circulated. In the popular mind Martin Irons was the blackest-hearted villain that ever went unhung. Pinkerton blood-hounds tracked him night and day. But through it all this loyal, fearless, high-minded workman stood steadfast.

The courts and soldiers responded to the command of their masters, the railroads; the strike was crushed and the workmen were beaten.

Martin Irons had served, suffered for and honored his class. But he had lost. His class now turned against him and joined in the execution of the enemy. This pained him more than all else. But he bore even this without a murmur, and if ever a despairing sigh was wrung from him it was when he was alone.

And thus it has been all along the highway of the centuries, from Jesus Christ to Martin Irons.

Let it not be said that Irons was not crucified. For fourteen years he was nailed to the cross, and no martyr to humanity ever bore his crucifixion with finer fortitude.

He endured the taunts and jeers and all the bitter mockery of fate with patient heroism; and even when the poor dumb brutes whose wounds and bruises he would have swathed with his own heart-strings turned upon and rent him, pity sealed his lips and silent suffering wrought for him a martyr's crown.

GREAT THINKERS ON PRISONS

A prison harms not a brave man.—Al-Jahm.

A prison proves the value of liberty.—Alberoni.

Even in chains and prisons we are free.—Forster.

A jail is a temporary resting-place for martyrs.—Birrell.

Prisons of stone and iron may hold the body for long and painful years in darkness, but they cannot shut out the light of truth from the truth-loving soul.

A jail is hardly a place from which essays on righteousness and well-doing would be expected to emanate; yet it was in a prison that through the instrumentality of Paul and Silas the jailer was converted, and within a jail John Bunyan wrote his "Pilgrim's Progress."

SONG OF A JAIL-BIRD.

It is with a sense of more than ordinary comradeship that I write of the jail-bird, for I have myself felt the heavy hand of federal persecution and seen the prison portals yawn to devour the liberty of years because I dared defy tyranny and tell the truth about our degenerate despots.

ARRESTED FOR AGITATING

Few of Many Cases of Police Persecution of Socialists, Compiled by the Socialist's Army Editor.

PROST, J.—Arrested for street speaking, New York City, Mo., August 31, 1906.

LEWIS, T. J.—Arrested for street speaking, New York City.

HARRIS, HENRY—Arrested for street speaking, New York City.

STARBUCK, G. B.—Arrested for street speaking, New York City.

LEWIS, H. A.—Arrested for street speaking, Washington, Va., dismissed.

VANDERPOORT, CHAS. H.—Arrested for street speaking, Kansas City, Mo., August 31, 1906.

ANDERSON, A. C.—Arrested for street speaking, Kansas City, Mo., August 31, 1906.

