



leads them often far beyond the mark; and not many of them reflect, that had they been placed from their birth, as his- torians and slave owners have been, how many of these philanthropists would have been gradually trained to feel and look, and act as the masters of the white and colored classes, and operatives have done, and feel yet constrained to do.

I strongly feel the debt injury inflicted upon society by the manufacturing and slave system of the world; but knowing the difficulty of effecting a change on sectional principles in practice I considered myself not justified in finding fault with these systems, or with those involved in them, until by long study of the history of the past, and of the unchanging laws of humanity with their deep investigation of what society has done in the highest degree of right holding, it may be made to become what I had discovered the permanent cause of these most trying evils, with the means of removing these causes and of introducing others which, without injury to any portion of society, should gradually create a state of prosperous human existence in which these errors and their necessary crises could remain unknown.

In this how state which will prove so beneficial for master and slave, employer and employed, and for all classes, as well as to the lowest, for which I have been through a long and painful life, day by day, gradually preparing the public, and my happiness now arises from knowing that the reflecting part of the population of the world, strongly desire and look for a change; that change cannot now be much longer withheld, and that it will be a happy change for all.

ROBERT OWEN.

New York, 30th November, 1843.

From the People's Press, New Bedford, Me.

LABORERS.

Laborers are the producers of all the wealth there is in the world, but in all parts, and I may add, in all ages of the world, they have been depressed. It is therefore that I would speak of them, and not because they are laborers. I am sorry there is a necessity for speaking in behalf of laborers as such, because it does so generally excuse the rich. I have no partiality in favor of any class of persons, nor prejudice against any that I am conscious of. I do not envy the rich for they are not happy if they have gotten their wealth by wronging the laborer. Fanciers are also that there is but little or no difference in the dispositions of men; the same selfishness that prompts the employer to grasp and keep back a part of the laborer's earnings pervades and induces him to try to get the advantage of his fellow man. In fact the competition that is practiced between the employer and working man is truly lamentable, and I had almost said disgraceful. Poverty or the fear of want is the occasion of this scramble for employment in most cases, but in too many it is prompted by sheer avarice. How long this state of things will continue, of course cannot be predicted, but certain it is that as long as these things are practiced, rich men, money, and labor will have to reap the consequences and the only comfort they can have is that it will be growing worse, and the day is not far distant when the condition of the producing classes, and all other classes in Europe, will be the fate of corresponding classes here.

To abolish present evils, to avert impending ones, and to secure to the laborer the proceeds of his toil, many have been and are still laboring, but with little or no success. They meet from the working classes? Many boys have been started to advocate their cause, but what support have they received from them? With scarcely an exception they have been permitted to linger awhile a bushful existence and die prematurely for the want of patronage. Not because they are not able to take a newspaper, but because they are ignorant or illiterate. Such of our countrymen, and had rather give their money for the starchy trash of the day. This dissemination on the part of workmen and women to do anything for themselves is calculated to dampen the ardor of their friends, and destroy in them all hope of accomplishing anything for them. It is true, doubtless, that some have undertaken to advocate their cause who have not been designed to make a good speech in front of the business. Such of course deserve to be defeated. But there are 'good men and true' who have been faithful to the cause, and could possibly, for adversity, life or death, they will remain faithful, such men should be cheered at least by the approbation of workmen. There are at the present time a number of papers which are disseminating truths on this subject in the British Islands to actual success. Although this movement is a member of political parties, it has the merit of being bipartisan and just, and if it can be consummated it will check to a great degree, although it cannot reach the cause of the depression of the laborer, the state of the world in order to call

the attention of the readers of this paper to the fact that such a movement was being made, and I think it entitled to their consideration. The propositions made to the Association promise more good to the people of this country than any that have emanated from any political party since the formation of the Government.

Subjoined are a few extracts from a pamphlet issued by the National Association which will give some idea of its character and objects. The pamphlet is entitled 'Principles and objects of the National Reform Association or Agrarian League,' and ought to be in the hands of every laboring man in the United States.

Labor in New York.

The following are some of the rewards.

No. 1711.—THE CEMETERIA AND PARASOL MARKET.

The manufacturing of Umbrellas and Parasols is carried on to a considerable extent in our City and like most other trades this branch of Industry has also experienced the severe effects of competition. Of late years, the large numbers made up for the auction sales, manufactured of all sorts of stuff, and sewed together by all sorts of manners and styles, in New York, in the regular mode to sell—has done much to ruin the business in this City, and has driven our good work and their country the ready, industrious and skillful workmen for the most inadequate wages.

The number of Umbrellas and Parasols, is divided into different and distinct departments. The girls, heads, tips, ferrules, &c. formerly were manufactured at the same establishments as the frames work and coverings; but they are now generally done at other places. What is called the frame-work is made by males, and the putting on of the covers is always done by the girls. The work is done in different departments. One of the female branches that we now wish to speak of, is there are many large establishments in this City, some of them giving employment thirty or forty hands each. The youngest girls employed here about fifteen or sixteen years of age. Covering Umbrellas or Parasols requires a good deal of strength and skill, which are required to make the work fit nicely, and girls younger than fifteen are seldom employed in this business.

The girls who work at this business are mostly Americans. There are a few Germans and Irish; but the Americans are considered the best workers. There is generally what is called a Crier, who superintends the the female Department. Her duties are to cut the materials for the umbrellas, and give out the covers, cord, thread, cotton, cap-stuffs, buttons, &c. There are some plays in the City, where the girls are required to furnish their own thread. This they do not like to do, but when we take into consideration the large numbers of unemployed girls, and the girls even these poor girls are allowed for their work on them, this thread becomes quite an important item.

The girls work about ten hours a day. They have their dinners with them, as they generally live so close a distance from the establishments, that it would take too long to go out and get their dinners. They also put up their own food for their work by the piece. Some of the girls at the establishments are permitted to take their work to their homes and do it there; but these are good and well-to-do hands, who have been long employed. This makes the work out of the shop muzzies it, and the practice is therefore not allowed. The girls pay for covering material, and the size of the goods.

There are three sizes of Umbrellas—25, 30 and 32 inches. For covering with gilt heads, the girls are ten cents for the 25 inches, eleven cents for the 30 inches, and twelve cents for the 32 inches. For covering with silk eleven cents for the 25 inches, twelve cents for the 30 inches and thirteen cents for the 32 inches. This work is not done in the City, but is sent to the country. The girls are paid by the piece, and the size of the goods. Some girls cannot make as much working on parasols as an upholsterer on the same material, and they will not work on them. As the prices usually paid to girls at the trade can make, some of them twenty shillings, some three dollars, and some who are extraordinarily smart, four and five dollars a week. There are many who do not earn twenty shillings. These are to be found chiefly among the class who work on the umbrellas with gilt heads, and some girls who work on the 30 and 32 inch goods. For covering these establishments four dollars cost money. This is the kind of work which keeps off a shower about as well as a shower, and generally made out when going toward a corner. There is a good deal of the work and girl work in the City, and some girls would like to do the various kinds of work—like other patterns, &c. &c. which are not done into parasols and umbrellas, but of these cheap establishments for the country trade. They would be splendid if they were managed by themselves.

The busy season with the Umbrella-Makers is the Spring and Fall. There are some establishments where they employ girls to make up work for the auctions alone. These girls work through with, they are discharged. But there are many places where the girls have constant employment the year through, and good workers can almost always be employed. Many of these establishments in the City have girls who have been working for them five or six years and have worked nowhere else during that time.

Girls who have never worked at making parasols or umbrellas the year through, and industry soon understand it. Apprentices generally learn in a week or so.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

WOMEN, JANUARY 2, 1846.

Our Subscribers must recollect, that when they wish their prices discounted, they should inform POST PAID and remit all arrearages.

Our position as an advocate of the rights and interests of the factory girls, affords an apology for noticing the decrease of this little work, the last December leaves of which included the industriousness of some unnumbered 'fact girls' has fallen upon our rough and hoarse table.

In looking over the pages of the Offering, a line of freshness and vigor, equal to its vernal days, seems to light its path to the tomb, and were it not for the parting 'benisons' and final 'adieu' so complacently expressed, we should imagine the aerial of life hardly passed, and the green wreath of summer still to twine around its slender, and so elastic, stem.

The Offering has enjoyed an unusual degree of notoriety as well as parental protection, a portion of which, we have been led to believe, has not been proffered, from motives of respect and true benevolence towards the factory operatives of our land. Without imputing the motives of those who in many respects, have done honor to themselves as contributors of the Offering, we must say that the Editor has no power to retract, or to interdict the use of what has been published.

Led on by the fatal error of neutrality, it has neglected the operative as a working being, and to a great degree, under the power of those whose interests are antagonistic to enervate the world that factory girls can write sentimental lines, romantic stories, and poetic rhyme, or in other words, "that there is mind among the spindles."

This Offering has accomplished, and made it creditable to their authors, and the contributors of this magazine, have monthly greeted its columns, but this does not show that mind was made among the spindles, or that factory life, under the present system is conducive to the expansion and cultivation of the intellectual powers of the operatives, still an influence has gone abroad that the Lowell factories are every way calculated to improve and elevate the mind, moral, and physical condition of those who are daily confined from twelve to fourteen hours within their walls, and are sorry to say, that whenever attempts to correct this false impression have been made, by those true friends to the operatives and toilers of our country, who have long also discovered an inherent evil in the present organization of factory labor.

But we may be told that the Offering has spoken out against some of the evils of the factory system—true it has, but evidently for the purpose of apologizing for them, because forsooth, those of a similar character exist in other departments of industry. When speaking of the effects of factory labor and its fearful influences, often have we been referred to the Lowell Offering as an evidence, and our remarks were innocuous and our suspicion unfounded; indeed it has been held up to the wide world as a universal illustration of the superior influences of American factory labor, upon the intelligence, health and happiness of those who had adopted it as a vocation, when in fact it was confined to no more consideration than merely showing, that out of the six girls employed at the Lowell factories, a sufficient number could be found who have enjoyed privileges, before entering the mills, or during subsequent vacations, which have qualified them for conducting a monthly magazine like the Offering.

That girls of superior accomplishments and talents have been found at Lowell, is true; but does not argue that the noise, dust, and over-heated atmosphere of a cotton factory, any peculiar virtues in improving upward works, or that the great fires, sparking streams, and heavily bellows, are so much better a means, than the fresh air and brightness of the bosoms of New England, than the busy walls of the smoking manufactory—the selfish avarice and treacherous, seductive friendship, which characterizes the factory town, though every where guarded by a "moral police," as free, impartial and humane as the dictates of capital and self-interest will allow. As a guardian and friend of the moral and intellectual prosperity of factory operatives, the Offering should have taken high and independent grounds; recollecting that such persons, engaged in a confined and impure atmosphere, were not calculated to fill his bright pages with free, healthy and virtuous sentiments, and that the physical and intellectual well-being of the operatives are so indispensably connected; that one cannot suffer without injury to the other. The conductors of the Offering committed a sad mistake, in supposing they could occupy a neutral position between the manufacturer and the operative, while their pecuniary interests are so directly opposed; hence, every allusion upon the many palpable evils, which are, at war with the happiness of the latter, amounts to a virtual sanction of the cause from whence they spring. The very position of the Offering as a factory girls' magazine, precludes the possibility of neutrality, therefore, we must come to one of two conclusions, either that it has been under the influence and control of the manufacturing powers, or that it has not been an organ of the operatives, and we leave it with the sagacity of our readers to discover the difference.

We greatly deplore the sad number of the Offering, especially the editorial department, with interest and charity, hoping to find something that should dissipate our former impressions and lead us to believe it free from the charges which have been proffered against it. But in this, we have been disappointed, and even to the last, we had a lurking disposition to exculpate the manufacturer and friends of the system from all blame for the existence of what it passes to (unnecessarily necessary) we believe, as a whole, to be of little value upon the subject of factory labor and its true tendencies, must necessarily involve injunctive and malignant denunciations.

In one of the valedictory (we find much worthy admiration, and much to regret)—that "the injunctions of christianity are not carried into the details of factory life, as they should be; a truth of significant importance, and worthy a heart that feels for the wrongs and sufferings of the oppressed classes to come here, find that they will be wronged, if they respect themselves. They find here lectures, institutes, religious associations and social conventions open to them. They are met and treated according to their worth; evinces a disposition to throw the productive vices and wrongs, engendered by a false social and political organization in society—social and money aristocracy; upon their more unfortunate victims, or an ignorance of the extent and magnitude of the evils, or a respectable class in the community, who are obliged to labor for their daily subsistence, and do not possess any superior accomplishments, to overcome their circumstances. Of what benefit is it to large portions of the Lowell operatives, that lectures, institutes, and other means of improvement, exist in the city, while they are confined from twelve to fourteen hours within their walls, and are shut out from mental and social culture? The various institutions of moral, mental and physical improvement, are not "open" to the mass of the factory population, and only those who possess an uncommon thirst for intellectual improvement, accompanied with physical ability, overcome the fatigues of the day, and find time to attend to such a course of study and learning, while millions are only called out by the exterminations of birth and the foolish juggling of which factory towns are not unfrequently visited. The crowded houses at comic concerts, and clownish performances, and the sparse audience, and empty seats of the lecture room, together with a large amount of vain curiosity which draws people to our churches, are strong evidence of the truth of our position. And for this state of things, the false relations of capital and labor are answerable, and those who apologize for, and uphold the present system of factory labor, cannot be considered true friends to human improvement and christian progression.

That the "premium system has its modifying influences," we very much doubt, and we are not a little surprised to find an Offering holding up this half civilized system of awarding a premium to those overseers who manifest their fidelity to the interests of the corporations, by getting off the largest amount of goods, at the least possible expense. This the Offering thinks, tends to make the overseers "faithful in their attendance." But as the first overseers are the only ones, who receive this premium, and they generally receive such a large amount, they are not only argument loses its force, and leaves the system upon its own miserable basis—an injunction for the overseers to urge the operatives to their utmost ability and sometimes beyond, to produce the most cloth, at the least cost to the corporation, or to collect twenty or thirty dollars a month, and then to be content to stand upon the glutted coffers of the operative. If from two to two and a half dollars per day is not sufficient to induce men, to faithfully fulfill their duties, without an extra stimulus in the shape of a premium, they are not fit for overseers, and should not be intrusted with such responsibilities.

The valedictory of the junior addressers of the Offering, is written in decidedly better humor, and reflects upon upon the moral and wisdom of its author, though she assumes to be profound, almost to infidelity, while she is in indictive judgment upon all who have distrusted the course which her magazine has pursued, since taking the control of its late conductors. That the junior addressers "is no reformer, requires 'expulsion'—and a long part, and her individual selfishness, gathered together uncalled for, as none of those self-asserters for whom she entertains such a dramatic abhorrence, will be 'indignant' enough to rob her of the trophies of sentiment, that award superiority of character and virtue, wealth and aristocracy—inculcate as the means, 'education' away the evils of society, 'morality' and the cessation of sin and selfishness; while she practically denounces the principles of christianity, and labors to uphold and foster the very causes of wrong, selfishness in the world. But we are aware, that these are mere echoes of sentiments, that she has advanced long ere this, in support of the present manufacturing monopoly of this country, which she evidently admires, and with which, to be consistent, she will identify herself, rather than spend her time and abilities in quelling the fiery, trashy and pernicious 'snobs' education; and violate the taste of her sister operatives, and which her little magazine so justly condemns."

We beg pardon for this long and to some degree censorious eulogy upon the The Lowell Offering; for reasons already advanced; but it is no more—peace to its slumbers, and should it ever witness a moment of true reason, may it be prepared to take a high stand among the redeemed, as a bold defender of the rights of the people.

The following article, written for the *Current*, but refused publication until inspired by Miss Farley, who is absent from the City, was handed us by the author, with a request to publish. We comply with the request without entering into the controversy. The reason of its rejection by Schouler, is evident;—a partial reflection upon the Offering as a factory girls' magazine.

For the Current.

Mr. Schouler, Sir:—In reply to the communication in your paper of the 30th of the month will find in conversation with me, from motives of mere curiosity. I will say to the public, there is no "mistake" on my part, and that his curiosity was gratified, by its assertion from that the Offering was written by Factory Girls, (nothing being written either of us about the number of writers.)

"The Offering is not written by Factory Girls."

"Then comes Mr. Moulton's challenge, 'if you will reduce to two original articles, in the three last Nos., from Factory Girls, I will give you twelve dollars.'"

"It is hoped and believed, that Miss Farley can gratify this man of 'curiosity' by bringing forward twelve writers, though the number of writers was not questioned. If Miss Farley cannot produce 'twelve,' I am very sorry, and rejoice that such a thing is disconnected from the Offering. I would be glad to give this a piece in your column, and oblige 'you a talker.' M. EASTMAN, Tuesday Evening, Dec. 30.

We commend an article on the last page of our paper, entitled 'the hours of labor,' from 'Chambers' Edinburgh Journal,' and copied from the New York *Tribune*, to draw the attention of our readers to a subject as to which we have many times reminded the careful consideration of every friend to the race. The remarks of the article, accompanying this article, are just and benevolent, in the main; but demanding cautions, about 'strolling declaimers,' 'voluntary strangers' and 'groshop politicians,' does not harmonize, with his spirit of 'universal philanthropy, which occasionally manifests itself in the respective departments of physiological development and emotional circumstances of all who deeply sympathize with the laboring classes. We know of no 'groshop politicians' or 'voluntary declaimers,' who are striving to stir up 'passion and hatred between the employer and the employed,' who are acknowledged and followed as 'champions of working men's rights,' by hundreds of many who are not nearly so ignorant and unfeeling as the moral principle are unimpeachable, and for whom education has done but little—men who speak out their honest convictions without any studied artifice or carefully selected calculations; who are as true friends to the rights of labor and the good of humanity as they are to the rights of the capitalist, and who are not less sincere in their expressions than they are in their judgments. Men should not be judged by the quantity they express themselves, but rather by the quantity of some of their naturally cultivated and sanguine, while others are cultivated and yet all be honest, simple and true.

We have ever admired Mr. Greeley's comparative independence and fearless exposure of many of the great moral questions of the day, and why he should cherish so little charity for those who differ with his notions of 'productive industry,' though no votaries of such injunctive is to us, a matter of surprise.

TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Yes friends we wish a happy new year to all who are engaged in trying to make...

To William Scholer, Editor of the Lowell Courier

Dear Sir, I have just received your issue of the 20th inst. containing an attack upon me...

For the Week

My dear friend, you have just received your issue of the 20th inst. containing an attack upon me...

The Voice of Industry

Dear Sir, I have just received your issue of the 20th inst. containing an attack upon me...

No man was ever a loser by good works

THE INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS... THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY... THE NEW ENGLAND WORKINGMEN'S ASSOCIATION

TO THE TOILING SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF NEW ENGLAND, WE WOULD SAY, "O GOD OF GOOD CHEER"

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