

things to tell gathered from your own experience and many facts to relate which were the result of observation; in so far as I am in error I hope you will take it upon you to correct me; and so far as I may be governed by prejudice, do not hesitate to convince me.

There I have ended in quite a different strain from what I commenced—really, I know almost started at my own vanity. I will end the subject, therefore, and this letter by subscribing myself your most devoted, sincere and humble servant,

Lowell.
Boston, March 15, 1847.

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

WHAT WE LABOR FOR:

The Rights of Man to himself, to a permanent home on the earth, to the choice of industrial pursuits, to limit for himself the hours of toil, to an equal right for what he produces, to the best opportunities for education, and to freedom in every thing.

LOWELL:

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, 1847.

INDUSTRIAL REFORM PLEDGE.

"We whose names are appended, desiring of restoring to man his Natural Right to Labor, do solemnly agree, that we will not vote for any man for the Presidency or Congress who will not pledge himself to the effect that he will, as a Representative, elector, or to prevent all further traffic in the Public Lands of the States and of the United States, and to cause them to be laid out in farms and lots for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers; or for any man for the Governorship or the Legislature who will not so pledge himself to the Freedom of the Public Lands, and to a limitation hereafter in this State, to the exemption of the Homestead from any future debt or mortgage, and to a limitation of the hours of daily labor on public works or in establishments chartered by law."

The Publication Office of this paper has been removed to No. 76 Central street—its former place of publication. Persons wishing to transact business with the paper or editor, are invited to call.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the Labor Reform League of New England will be held in Lowell at the City Hall on the 30th and 31st days of March next. The object of the League will be the election for the ensuing year, and each other business, transacted as shall be deemed for the interest of the League, and the good of the working men and women of New England.

Let us rally around the standard of FREEDOM and JUSTICE for ALL with new zeal and firmer trust in the God of Truth, and in the presence of the Alleviating eye, resolve to labor on for the elevation, improvement and emancipation of humanity.

H. J. STONE, Sec'y.

Lowell, Feb. 26, 1847.

"THE NEW ENGLAND LABOR REFORM LEAGUE."

The first Annual meeting of the League will be held in this city on next Tuesday and Wednesday—30 and 31 inst, at which time it is earnestly desired that all who sincerely hope for a better condition for Labor, will come together to deliberate over means for its permanent elevation. Starving Ireland says, come; the fifty thousand paupers of New York City say, come; the three millions of Southern Bondmen, in chains and degradation say, come; the everywhere visible tendency of extreme poverty for the mass and extreme wealth for the few, says, come; the history of the past implores you, says; the light of the future invites you to come.—Then let no true friend to the laboring classes and humanity, who consistently can, fail of being present.

The day meetings will be principally occupied with the business matters of the League, and the evenings for addresses. On Wednesday evening the meeting will be held in connection with the "People's Lectures," which will be addressed by Horace Greely, Esq., of New York. Let our friends from abroad be present at the organization of the meeting.

THE NEW POST-OFFICE LAW.

Another convincing illustration of the unbounded love government officers have for the dear people, is this new Post-office law.—How the people's servants (?) do love them! If their affection continues at the rate it has for the last few years, they will be loosed to death. But what call has there been for this change? Have the people expressed any dissatisfaction with the law that has been in force for the last two years? On the contrary, has it not met with almost universal favor? Pretty servants for the people? After voting themselves eight dollars a day, neck-ties, stationery, hundreds and in some instances thousands of dollars mileage, when they had not travelled one rod—to turn round to those by whose suffrages they were elected, and whose hard earnings, pay these enormous and unrighteous bills, and demand three cents for every newspaper sent to a friend; and this too, "in advance," so high an estimate have they of their honesty! It has been supposed (by some "visionary fanatics," doubtless) that one of the primary objects of a republican government, was to encourage the diffusion of knowledge among the people, but it seems that the wise heads who control the national affairs of this American republic, in the nineteenth century of political greatness, have discovered that knowledge is very dangerous to the permanency of "our institutions," and therefore should be taxed to extraordinary and pay many from three to twenty-five thousand dollars a year to spread ignorance, poverty and vice in the community.—The miserable government at tinkering that has characterized our national legislature for a series of years past, should resign, even a Congress of Hottentots! Let the Working-

man who toils twelve or fourteen hours per day for seventy-five cents or one dollar, recollect that these eight dollars-a-day laborers, who have made a law to tax them three cents for every transient paper they wish to send their friends, have reserved to themselves the privilege of franking *ad infinitum*—letters, newspapers, speeches and shirts and boots, for aught we know. We are glad to see the almost universal opposition to this law receiving from the people and Press of all parties. Let the extra copies of the transient papers, but all postage on regular papers within one hundred miles of the office of publication.

BLOW OUT.

"What," says some of our readers, is 'blow out' (Well we will tell you. It is a term well known in factory towns, and refers to the time when the Mills stop running at night, and the lights are all blown out for the season; which occurs on the 30th of March.—This period is always hailed with joy, by the factory operatives, who decorate their large hanging lamps with flowers, and form garlands of almost every ingenious description in honor of 'blow out' evening. But says the reader, 'I thought the operatives were opposed to a reduction of the hours of labor.' Agent B., Overseer C., Politician D., and Minister E., toll me so. And why this joy, this 'blow out' celebration, and all this decoration? Why not trim their lamps with mourning and other trimmings more emblematic of their feelings—their dissatisfaction and regret at being deprived of the privilege of working an hour and a half or two hours in the evening? But—our reader those fellows have been 'gassing' you. We venture to say that there is not an operative in the Lowell Mills that really, truly and conscientiously, prefers to work evenings; and none but those who are compelled by the force of circumstances or some tight-fisted miser, who works by the piece, and has suffered a blind aversion to get the master of her better nature, causing her to prize a few extra coppers more than her physical or intellectual welfare; will say they are in favor of the present long hour system of factory labor.

But we were talking about 'Blow outs,' and having given a brief explanation, we will close by saying that last Friday evening was 'Blow out' evening, and the girls had a nice time of it, they did;—some sung, some danced—and others made wreaths and looked gay and happy. God grant that the day is not far distant, when they shall witness an eternal 'Blow out' to night-work in factories, and look gay and happy the year round.

"LECTURES FOR THE PEOPLE."—In consequence of Mr. Andrews being suddenly obliged to leave New York, he was unable to lecture on Wednesday evening as announced.

Information of Mr. Andrews inability to fulfill his engagement, coming to hand at a late hour, the committee were unable to procure a lecturer to supply his place, consequently no regular lecture was given. A young man of this city, however, addressed the audience present, in a manner not altogether devoid of interest.

Horace Greely, Esq., of New York, will give the next lecture on Wednesday evening.

EXPOSURE.—After reducing Ireland to starvation, by a profligate throne and a wicked and luxurious church, Queen Victoria has recalled a council to consider the best day on which to appoint a general fast and humiliation, on account of the present awful condition of the sister kingdom!—Starve the people to death by denying them their rights; and then appoint a day of fasting and prayer! If God is any such being as the English Church represents, He would rain down fire and brimstone upon Queen Victoria and her Court, for such high-handed mockery. The best day to fast and be humble for bringing famine and death upon a whole Nation. Such parliamentary hypocrisy is enough to make ones blood curdle in the veins. The best day is now and forever!

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—In accordance with the new Post Office Law all papers going through the mail will be subject to postage, therefore our subscribers who wish to have their papers sent out of the mill, by express or otherwise, are requested to make such arrangements as they see fit, and send us notice thereof. In those towns where large numbers of the Voice are taken, such a course would be very practicable, and of little expense to each subscriber. Those to whom we send papers to sell, will also take notice.

PIONEER AND HERALD OF FREEDOM.—We omitted last week to state that this fearless advocate of humanity came to us in a new dress and with a new head, illustrative of his character. We entertain a high regard for this noble paper and its philanthropic Publisher, who has perseveringly maintained his paper from a high sense of doing good to society, although under great pecuniary sacrifice. The editor, Mr. Clapp, is now in England, from whence he is writing many interesting letters that make the Pioneer one of the most interesting papers in the country.

THE LOWELL INDUSTRIAL REFORM ASSOCIATION met on Monday evening for the transaction of important business. A punctual attendance is requested.

LECTURES FOR THE PEOPLE—No. 1.

ADIN BALLOU—PEACE AND WAR.

Mr. Ballou first noticed the beautiful and harmonious arrangements of the various departments of Nature, and the adaptation of this earth as a whole to be the dwelling place of a peaceful and happy race of beings.

He spoke of christianity, and of what might reasonably be expected from the influences of that mild, peaceful and forgiving faith, and from the example of its great Founder, who died on the cross with that sublimity of all prayers, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do," on his lips. With what might have been expected, the speaker traced the actual of life on this globe—a globe apparently given over to discord and anarchy, and on which the demon of War has revelled for centuries in the terriblest carnage! He gave statistics showing the immense and almost inconceivable waste of human life in war. As we took no notes at the time we are unable to give these statistics.—It was necessary, he said, to dwell somewhat on the horrors of war because these were too often kept out of sight, and only its show of glitter and pomp brought forward to dazzle and blind.

Mr. Ballou exposed in a masterly manner the hypocritical inconsistencies of the professional ministers and followers of the Prince of Peace, and showed conclusively that from many war receives its sanction and support. He said that it is to the more enlightened and moral portion of community that we must look to discountenance war and violence; that they must in the first place cease not only to resist but to prepare for resistance; that all warlike preparations excite beligerent feelings in others, on the principle that like always begets like.

The Reverend gentlemen who sell themselves to the horrid mockery of blessing, in the name of Christ, the implements and the work of bloodshed received a merited chastisement. The illustration of the two chaplains in opposite armies, lifting up their hands in prayer to the same God—each beseeching him to bless "our side" and give efficiency to our deadly preparations for carnage and blood, though not new, was very well-timed and appropriate. One cannot help thinking that their God must be terribly puzzled to answer their most contradictory prayers!

Mr. Ballou closed by giving some illustrations of the power of Love and Truth, and the efficiency of Peace principles, both in individuals and communities.

The lecture was, on the whole, exceedingly interesting, and was listened to with breathless attention by a large and highly respectable audience. The interest excited by this lecture we trust will ensure a still larger attendance on the remainder of the course.—The names of Greeley, Ripley, Channing and Dwight, are a sufficient guarantee that the interest will be sustained.

"The above was written nearly a week after the lecture was delivered, entirely from memory. It is therefore necessarily very imperfect. Reports of future lectures will be given more at length and with greater accuracy."

SONS OF TEMPERANCE FIC-NIC.

The most interesting and profitable social party we ever had the pleasure of attending, was given by Lowell Division, No. 34, Sons of Temperance, on Tuesday evening, at Recharitable Hall. It was indeed a social and intellectual feast as well as a feast for the stomach. John F. Coles, Esq., editor of the New England Washingtonian (no mean affair of a paper) and Mr. Potter—one of the Publishers, of the same, were present and addressed the meeting, to the great satisfaction and delight of the audience. Their happy meditations and sparkling wit threw the company into a mode of perfect good nature and if any did not show signs of mirth, that organ must have been long indeed. Rev. Mr. Brewster also made a brief and effective speech in his usual earnest manner.

We rejoice to learn that this benevolent and highly philanthropic institution is making rapid progress, and if its members are imbued with the spirit that seems to characterize the Lowell Division, we feel quite sure that the world will yet be saved from the miseries of intemperance. May your numbers never be less, or their zeal unabated, is our sincere wish.

AT HOME AGAIN.—We were happy to announce to our friends that we are back again at our old stand—76 Central st., (corner of Hurd st.), where all future business connected with the paper will be attended to, and where all Advertisements, Notices, Books for review, &c., should be sent.

FIRE.—About half past eleven, Monday night, a fire broke out in Messrs. Morrison & Curtis' carriage shop, on Chapel Hill, of this City. The building was entirely consumed together with most of the stock and papers belonging to the company. Building, stock and tools insured for \$1400.

"SELF REFORM."—On page fourth, of the Fitchburg Tribune, is an excellent article.—We commend it to the especial attention of our good friend, Spectator.

Will the Philological Journal please send our copies in the same package with those addressed to J. S. Fletcher.

"We see by 'the papers' that the Lawyers of this city, have given notice that after the first of April, their offices will be closed against all business, each afternoon at dark. Hain't some long hour conscience alarmed?—Wonder if this array of the legal profession are favorable to a reduction of the hours of labor?"

Persons wishing to send the Voice to their friends out of town can do so, without extra postage, by leaving their names at this office, 76 Central St., (op stairs).

LIBERAL.—The operatives and overseers of the Stark and Manchester mills, Manchester N. H., have contributed \$900.25 for the relief of Ireland and Scotland.

How much have the corporations given? The Newburyport Courier has been discontinued for want of support—a prevailing complaint.

Jon Tyler, Jr., has been appointed a Captain in one of the new regiments.

The contributions in Warechester for the relief of the Irish, amount to \$3000.

Winfield Scott is the only one of the five Major Generals who is not a slave-holder.

Fast Day in New Hampshire, Thursday, April 15.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND.—A fashionable ladies' benevolent society, says the Chronotype, is sending out a cargo of corsets to stay the stomachs of the starving Irish.

Citizens' Temperance meeting, next Thursday evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NATIONAL REFORMERS.

FRIEND YOUNG:—As the class of reformers acting under the above name have the good of humanity and the equalization of men for their professed object, I have thought their propositions and measures worthy to be put in practical operation as soon as possible, for the landless and homeless have no time to waste in needless delay. And if any project promises no permanent benefit, the sooner it is abandoned the better. So in reference to the measures of the National Reformers,

I believe the hopes of this party rest upon the equal distribution of the Government lands as the great means of ameliorating the condition of the laborer. Now I sympathize with this party for two reasons: one is that that they are composed of working-men; and the other is that the land ought to be more equally possessed by the human race. But other points in their movement give me little faith that it will succeed to any good purpose.

In the first place I could not contend neatly for the distribution of the land, as long as other things are as unequally given as that. In the second place could not confine my efforts to western lands, when laborers have an equal right to the soil here around their childhood homes. It is the spirit and power to monopolize which must be destroyed; and when this is effected, land and bread and clothes will be plenty for all without emigrating to a dreary wilderness in order to find them. There is land enough in New England for twice its present population. Let the poor men unite for their own enlightenment and elevation, and save their earnings and taxes for their own benefit, and a short period would effect a great change in their condition.

In my view the hope of the landless, on the action of Congress in this matter are groundless. A Congress whose conscience will allow its members \$8 per day, exacted from the pockets of honest industry, a Congress which will devote so many millions for the destruction of a weak and innocent nation, a Congress proverbial for extravagance, drunkenness and black-guardism, which the people are willing to pay for, is the last body to petition for laws of equity and benevolence! Who buy up and monopolize public lands more than members of Congress? Nobody. Then to act through them would seem like attempting to cast out Devils by the Prince of Devils. And to remedy the matter by electing better members would require the labor of years in reforming public sentiment.

But were some effort made in a private way among Workingmen for a direct and practicable object, twice the amount of good would be accomplished in a quarter of the time that it would take by any other process. Were a thousand humble Workmen to put their mites together and purchase a single township of well watered, fertile land in the west, and settle upon it in a body, they would soon have roads, mills, schools, &c., equal to a New England village. If Workingmen could associate in this manner, each one could soon be furnished with a comfortable and happy home. This can be done without any new law of Congress. It can be taken hold of to-day, without the advice of any lawyer or doctor.

A. G. S.

Hopedale, Mass.

YARNS FROM THE TRIMONT MILLS.

The Daily Mail of March 15th, contains a correspondence, spun by the means of a "Spinning Jenny." These threads are too slender to weave ideas which will benefit any part of the human family, in mind or otherwise. Truly, "Spinning Jenny" seems to be

a great man, as his correspondence shows.—His communication conveys ideas that we live in elegance surely none has ever been enjoyed or discovered by my humble self, who have spent many a year on the Corporations, and in the mills. True there has been an improvement in some respects; but there is a vast deal of room, and need for more.

"This quite common for us to write on the cover of a hand box, and sit upon a trunk, as tables or chairs in our sleeping rooms are all out of the question; because there is no room for such articles; as four or six, occupy every room, and of course trunks and hand-boxes constitute furniture for the rooms we occupy."

"Spinning Jenny" says, "The houses are built with system, calculation and forethought, in favor of those who occupy the rooms as boarders, or those who rent them?"

"Too many are put in a room for comfort or health."

"A thing called a light-stand a little more than a foot square, is our table for the use of six; Washstands are unbecomingly articles—it has never been my lot to enjoy their use, except at my own expense."

"Would ladies, attending a boarding school, or their parents think such accommodations elegant or comfortable? The low price of board will not allow us such conveniences of furniture in our rooms as we need, but some are disposed to say, 'tis no consequence about these Factory girls.' Some of them talk about rocking chairs, mirrors, and washstands; they have no time for the use of these things."

"One would think from 'Spinning Jenny,' we had all this, and more too. May be he has never 'spoilt by going through College,' so we make allowance for some strange things said in his correspondence."

"Thanks for the following sentiment. 'The hours of Labor, must and will be shortened.' If 'Jenny' can help us in this respect he better begin soon, or he may be too late."

"Some persons, when they first come into a 'City of Spindles,' try hard to get into favor of those sometimes called 'Cotton Lords'; 'his may account for yaris from the Cotton City.'"

"By-the-by, he says the 'Voice of Industry' deserves to be called 'Voice of Folly.' What some consider the 'Voice of Folly,' others consider the 'Voice of Wisdom.'"

"His puff on the apothecary, may be for his own interest. In case of any wants in these establishments, we (Factory girls) will call. And as for Dry Goods, we think Robinson's store has a great variety, cheap for cash; and then the tinders seem so accommodating and good-natured, even if we don't buy—only calling to look?"

"May 'Spinning Jenny' become better acquainted with the 'Humane Doctor,' is the wish of

MAXY.

MR. CASE.—DEAR SIR:—In the last No. of the Voice, I notice a letter from you, in which you desire information in relation to the condition of the operatives, in our factories.—Since I was between seven and eight years old, I have been employed almost without intermission in a factory, which is almost 18 years. During this time I have not attended school more than one year. Probably not that, so whatever you may think of my composition, you must acknowledge I ought to be a judge of factory life. I should like to give you my whole experience, but this would take too much room. And beside, you would hardly believe what I should state, although it would be true, so I will confine myself to Lowell, the place where operatives are used as well, I think as any place in New England. I do not wonder at your surprise that the operatives were worked in the summer season, from five in the morning till seven in the evening. Especially when you had been previously informed that we worked but ten hours per day. But 'tis true, we do all this, and against our wishes too. I know scarcely an operative, who would not have it otherwise if they could. But they do not wish their wages cut down, for they have barely enough to live on now. The time we are required to labor is altogether too long. It is more than our constitutions can bear. If any one doubts it, let them come into our mills of a summer's day, at four or five o'clock, in the afternoon, and see the drooping, weary persons moving about, as though their legs were hardly able to support their bodies. If this does not convince them, let them try their hand at it a while, and they will find the thing demonstrated at once. In fact their is nothing more common amongst operatives, than the remark that "their legs ache so, they have worked in the factory for considerable length of time. We commence as soon—and work as long as we can see almost the year round, and for nearly half the year we work by lamp light, at both ends of the day fighting up both morning and evening. And besides this, from November till March our time is from twenty minutes to half an hour too slow. So you see instead of getting out

