

## LABOR.

One of the chief aims of government should be the protection of labor. The conflict between capital and labor that has been in progress almost from the beginning of time has demonstrated beyond question the inability of labor to protect itself. Capitalists have denied this, and have successfully appealed for legislation to aid them in crushing a fallen foe. Labor itself will never acknowledge this, though trampled under foot, though all nobility is ground out of it.

For proof that labor unaided is an unequal rival of capital, we have only to look at the condition of each. Which dictates the law the other is bound to accept? Labor has ever been at a disadvantage, and time offers no remedy.

It is natural that labor should be the underling. Man is at enmity with work. His first endeavors are to free himself from its curse. All strive for this end. The ablest succeed—become capitalists, and the struggle becomes one of brains against muscle, which always has, and always will result disastrously to the latter.

Capitalists are few, intelligent, easily combined. Laborers are many, ignorant, difficult to combine. Some writers assume an advantage for labor, but Carey, and Adam Smith, takes the more practical view of natural advantages upon the side of capital. Without doubt, in the number of laborers, if properly organized and controlled, resides a power capable of self-protection. But physical labor and mental strength seem to be incompatible, and efficient organization is impossible where intelligence is wanting.

In a republican form of government, where every man has a voice in its affairs, the necessity for protecting labor is indeed pressing. The laboring classes must ever comprise the bulk of population. To this population is confided the preservation of our institutions.

The present condition of things, unfavorable to labor, tends to perpetuate it-

self. By its workings the laborer is compelled to exert all his energies to provide for the physical wants of himself and family. Under this condition, mental training will be neglected, hence his childhood will not be provided with the only means that could lift them above his position.

It is denied that labor and capital are in the least antagonistic. However these interests may have been in their natural states, it is evident the harmony no longer exists. Capital oppresses labor. Oppresses it by the aid of government. Oppresses it through well organized combinations. Protective laws are ever for the protection of capital. Monopolies are granted to many forms of capital. Labor has never been favored with a law protecting its interests. Monopolies in the different branches of industry are not allowed. The right of a blacksmith to a law protecting him against the immigration of foreign blacksmiths is as sound and just as a law protecting the manufacturer against foreign competition. In either case it is favoring the individual at a cost to society.

Government cannot release mankind from labor, but it may do much to ameliorate the condition of the laborer. It may raise the standard of intelligence, and intelligence determines the condition of every class. In this direction our own government has done much, and were it not for our foreign and slave elements, the laborer would occupy a much more favorable place. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this fact of intelligence. An intelligent yeomanry once secured, the greatest problem of government is solved. No longer would they need protection.

It is sad to see the class that give the most to the world, to society, receiving the least in return. Adam Smith says the produce of labor constitutes the natural recompense or wages of labor. How far then have the returns of labor drifted from natural rights. In the division of profits, according to Penny, the cost of la-