

some on the outside who are not so discreet."

The question of wages and labor is now uppermost in the public mind, and it seems hard to find a middle ground in the discussion of this topic. Nearly every writer or speaker takes an extreme position, and the debate, conducted from a radical standpoint on both sides, does not, apparently, help things any. One very sensible expression on this subject lately came within the observatory's range. It came from Albion W. Tourgee, author of "A Fool's Errand." Judge Tourgee conducts a department in a Chicago newspaper and recently he received the following letter: "The black slave had nothing to think of but his task. Food, clothing, home, family, in sickness or in death his body was provided for by his owner, by the law of the land. He had not to think of providing for 'rainy days,' nor for sickness or death of self or family—nothing but a life of work, to eat, drink, sleep and die, his master being compelled by law to provide something, however little it be, to keep body and soul together, in health or sickness, and to bury the poor carcass when dead. How is it with our greedy mine owners and soulless corporations with their workmen? They can by reason of monopoly of laws 'corner' all avenues of employment, and force thousands to give them a life of labor at a beggarly or near starvation pay, just sufficient to keep death at bay for a few short years, and when sickness or old age claims the laborer for his victim, the law allows the employer to turn him out to die, or to shove him 'over the hills to the poorhouse' to be a public charge until death is kind enough to claim the victim of bad laws and worse humanity. Then when the poor wage slave dares to combine with his fellow slaves to secure a living wage for his labor, that has often enriched his master to a many time millionaire, the law is called on to protect the slave master in his robbery of the laborer of the only capital he possesses, and shoot him down in cold blood for daring to assert the right of a man to demand pay for his labor sufficient to support his life and that of his family. The republican party freed the negro slaves; what has it done for the liberation of the white slave is the question. We know the democratic party has done nothing in the past; promises everything for the laborer, but does nothing. Will the republican party do anything to free the great mass of the workmen from monopoly bondage?"

Judge Tourgee objected to the language of his most radically inclined correspondent. He could not, he said, with equanimity, hear the American citizen whose speech and hands are alike unbound, compare himself or his condition with that of the slave. "It shows that he does not realize how immeasurable is the distance between them. As a mere beast there may be points of resemblance between them. As men, the only relation that can subsist between them is that of contrast." He continues: "There has never in the history of the United States been a day since the abolition of slavery, when the producing laborers of the country, that is, the wage-earners plus the self-employed mechanics and agriculturists, could not have controlled the legislation of the country and of every state, if they had so desired. If they did not, and do not, it is their own fault. If corporations corrupt voters it is because laborers are corruptible. If the laborer is not true to himself, how shall he expect others to be true to his interests? No rights or privileges or opportunities were taken from them by force, but by their own assent. By far the most serious of monopolies, to wit, the railways, were chartered and promoted especially by the laboring element of the country in the hope of benefit from them. This fact does not make the burthen any lighter, but it should restrain us from casting all the blame on those who probably saw no more clearly the end than we."

Tourgee also reminds his correspondent that people are not shot, nor allowed to be shot because they demand higher wages or refuse to work for lower wages. Men are shot when they forcibly obstruct others in the exercise of common right or destroy property in revenge for what is deemed unjust treatment. It is bad policy to impute evil motives to one class as against another unless clearly shown to be true. The employer of today is, like the employe of today, the product of conditions which both helped to create, and which can be peacefully and rationally cured by the co-operation of the best types of both elements only. He finds that much of the real trouble at this time lies in the fact that unrestricted competition has produced

a universal overproduction, and in the line of all great staples a consequent cheapness which must entail a serious diminution of the share which either capital or labor, or both, are able to derive from the product.

Charles H. Gould of this city, has talents that have too long remained hidden, as any one will readily discern by reading the following resolution introduced by him at a recent meeting of Farragut Post No. 25, G. A. R.

Whereas, the veterans of the late war and all loyal Americans remember with a pride that swells the heart with patriotic blood and fills the eyes with joyful tears, the daring deeds of American heroes, who made "Columbia the gem of the ocean," and filled the world with the names of Jack Barrie, John Paul Jones, Perry, Hull and Farragut, and brought honor to our flag and glory to the American union, and whereas, we have with unfeigned pride and genuine satisfaction witnessed the efforts of our congress and the willingness of our people to build a navy that would reflect some of our national greatness, and float a wall of impenetrable steel between our union of states and the enemies of a free government, and whereas, in times of danger Washington's orders were, "Put none but Americans on guard to-night;" therefore be it resolved, that none but Americans, (and by that we mean the test of loyalty and citizenship) should be allowed to pass upon the defenses of the country. That we call upon our congressmen regardless of party affiliations to probe the matter of defective armor, and defective and inadequate service to the very bottom, "allowing no guilty man to escape," and if there lives a shameless wretch, who would trifle with the honor of our flag, and the lives of our naval command, or a spy who would barter the freedom of more than sixty-five millions of people for pelf, let the drum head court marshal be revived that treason may meet a speedy and just reward.

"Like the wail of the banshee of Erin, comes the cry that a traitor or traitors, beside whose name Benedict Arnold's would shine like a beautiful diamond in the bottomless pit, have by the use of defective plate in the construction of our navy, jeopardized the honor of our flag and the lives of our sailors, and to save a few dollars and some few hours' time willingly sacrificed every principle of honor and virtue dear to American hearts and committed an act of atrocious and vindictive treason which bows the heads of the living with sorrow and shame and, as we must believe, troubles the sacred shades of Washington, Lincoln, Grant, and all departed patriots who from 1776 to 1865 made their country's honor their dearest desire, counting life cheap when weighed in the balance with national honor.

Mr. Gould's resolution goes on to recommend the confiscation of the Carnegie plant as a military necessity and the trial for treason of every person connected with this cowardly assault upon the very citadel of our national life and liberty. "That we recommend that in future trials of armor plate from this plant Carnegie and his man Frick be placed immediately behind the target until the test is completed. Such a test would probably do away with the numerous blowhards as well as blowholes," and it is further

Resolved, That we call upon the press of the country to sound the tocsin of alarm, demanding in the name of all the people such test of materials which enter into the construction of our national defenses as shall make it practically impossible for such treachery and scandals to occur; that if there be no constitutional law to bring such miscreants to the dungeon cell and gallows tree that representatives of the press urge national legislation to the end that justice be done and the honor and glory of our flag maintained. Be it further

Resolved, That the thanks of all the loyal people of the United States, and especially of the state of Nebraska is due to George D. Meikeljohn, and to all other members of congress who aided his efforts in bringing about a full and exhaustive investigation of the frauds that have been perpetrated upon a government by dishonorable, treasonable and inhuman contractors, who have furnished to the government of the United States, poor, unfit and inferior armor plates for our ships of war, and we do hereby pledge to the Hon. George D. Meikeljohn our hearty support in all his efforts to bring the guilty to justice and disclose to an astounded world the depth of human perty.