

brought the masses of agriculturists together, thereby quickening their social natures, and instilling into their minds a spirit of association which can never be erased. The farmers of the United States, having been once incited to combine for the protection of their interests, will never cease to do so in the future, to a more or less extent. The grange may pass away, but its impress and its stimulus will ever exist, and other combinations must inevitably take its place. There seems to be no little antagonistic feeling prevailing between capital and labor. From time immemorial there has been more or less jealousy on the part of the laboring classes towards the wealthier classes. The old Roman censor, Cato, decried wealth as an evil, and no doubt it was in those days when wealth accumulated in the hands of a very few, and was used too frequently for the aggrandizement of personal schemes. The laborer and capitalist are each dependent upon each other for prosperity. It would be a serious detriment to improvement, and consequently to the country, if the wealth of the country were equally divided among the people. Capital must be combined to make great public improvements for the accommodation of the people. We do not palliate the oppression of the laborer by the capitalist. They have been unjust to the laborer. But the centralization of capital for schemes of improvement is necessary to the welfare of the country. The employment of capital gives work to the laborer. If Nebraska had more men of large capital to build railroads, manufactories, and industries of various kinds, to develop her great resources, we would predict an unparalleled career of prosperity for the State.

The word, *combination*, carries with it to many an odious signification. The mind at once reverts to many a wicked combination; the Credit Moblier and other gigantic monopolies of the past take possession of our minds, and political rings and lobbies are combinations known

for their evil transactions. While we have no encouragement to offer to political rings, we think the lobby almost an indispensable necessity. While its influence has worked many an injury to public interests, it has its legitimate place. Many a just measure would fail to pass legislative bodies, were it not for the pressure brought to bear and the watchfulness displayed by an honest lobby. There can certainly be nothing improper for an individual, or a combination of individuals, to place before each member of a legislative body the merits of a particular measure. The abuse of the privilege, however, gives the lobby its odium. We could not but observe, during the last session of the Nebraska Legislature, the little combinations entered into by members from particular portions of the State, and the consequent success which they attained in securing the passage of bills. Members from other portions of the state, less shrewd, suffered the consequences of not adhering together, by the defeat of measures which would have been a benefit to their constituents.

Combination, it will be seen, has its proper sphere. When men are associated together for improper purposes, it is generally by combination against them that their purposes are thwarted. Taking a general view of the evils and good resulting from combination, we find that great benefits result from the association of men for the accomplishment of a praiseworthy object. A. J.

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## WORSE THAN WAR, WORSE THAN PESTILENCE.

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### CHAPTER IX, (concluded.)

The solar orb had just disappeared below its western portals, canopied with crimson clouds, and darkness was fast gathering around. Mrs. Abbott, becoming weary both in mind and body, paused by the quiet roadside to rest.

It was in that part of the town where the humble, but truly good, dwell. No