

railroad system for the purpose of settling a local dispute about wages is boldly asserted and practically enforced. Thus liberty is made a cloak for license, and tyranny is substituted for the methods of law and peace. It is not reasonable to suppose that this was anticipated by the fathers as the result of the Declaration of Independence. It is a reflection upon their integrity and an impeachment of their wisdom to say that they meant to justify such a proceeding for the regulation of economic affairs and the vindication of the idea that all men are created equal. They did not dream, it may safely be assumed, that their utterance of a great self evident truth, would ever receive an interpretation so violently opposed to its real meaning. The whole drift of their teaching was against this extravagant view of the question of equality and other natural rights. They were judicious and consistent statesmen, and not mere fanatics stimulated by narrow prejudices and unworthy passions.

There can be no dispute about the fact that American liberty includes the right to refuse to work for reasons satisfactory to the individual, or to any association of individuals. There is no serfdom here, and no authority by which any man can be forced against his wishes to render service for another. The labor of the citizen is his own, to dispose of as he pleases, and he must bear the consequences of any mistake made in that respect. Society is not responsible to him for losses incurred by his own folly. He is free to order his own course, but he is not free to dictate the course of others. The right to work is quite as sacred as the right not to work. When men voluntarily quit work, they have no right to prevent others from taking their places. The boon of liberty belongs to the latter as well as the former. There can be no discrimination in the case without a violation of principle and the perpetration of an injury. All men are created equal, and forever remain equal in the right to carry out their own wishes with regard to the use or non-use of their own means of profit and success; and whenever this right is denied or obstructed, on any pretext or for any purpose, a crime is committed in the name of liberty, and the value of citizenship is more or less impaired.

It will not do to contend that a combination of citizens, acting under orders from a leader whose authority lacks all legal sanction, has a right to arbitrarily suspend the facilities of travel and traffic, and thereby confuse and impede all the operations of business. The railroads are not simply private enterprises conducted for the profit of their owners. They are agencies of public convenience, and necessity, as much as is they were a part of the machinery of the government. The condition of civilization makes them indispensable. They sustain such a relation to the multiplied and interdependent interests of society that the sudden interruption of their service signifies direct and serious damage to all classes. Their stoppage is equivalent to the seizure of public property and the repudiation of the people to the use of the established means of prosperity. The men by whom this is done claim to be actuated by good motives, to be sure, but that does not change the character of the proceeding. They antagonize the spirit of constitutional liberty, and introduce the conditions of civil war under the false pretense of redressing grievances for which they say the laws do not provide a remedy.

The intelligent citizen can readily understand that this involves a vital test of the stability and efficiency of our institutions. The danger that now confronts us was predicted long ago by the sagacious and friendly students of our system of government. De Tocqueville admonished us more than half a century since that the time must inevitably come, through increase of population and conflict of domestic interests, when the want of more uniformity and centralization in our means of protection against insurrectionary elements would be experienced; and Macaulay repeated the warning in his celebrated letter characterizing our constitution as "all

sail and no anchor," meaning that it was well adapted to pleasant weather, but likely to be found disappointing in a storm. It is true that these forebodings have been discredited in a large degree by subsequent events—chiefly the preservation of the Union under circumstances of extreme peril; but the fact is not to be disguised that there is still room for grave apprehensions, which is to say that we cannot afford to disregard the obvious possibilities of terrific social convulsions that attend the solution of the labor problem, with all of its related political and moral complications.

What we need above everything else is a revival of the sentiment of patriotism in a controlling sense, and as standing for an obligation superior to that which is due to any party or organization. The last thing for an American citizen to do is to despair of the republic, or to lose confidence in the adjusting quality of its authority. It is the duty of every man to keep the fact in mind that the benefits of the government are shared by all, and that the poorest one among us receives from it much more than his own single strength could gain for him in its absence. There are inequalities, we know, in the distribution of profits, but there is liberty of improvement also, and great progress has certainly been made in the conditions of general welfare and happiness. The issues that are impending, emphasized by such lurid suggestions, can be settled without resort to the bloody metaphysics of revolution. It is for the people to assert that common sense which has distinguished them on previous emergencies, and to re-enforce the statesmanship of the period with a pronounced assurance of their love of country and their abiding faith in the potency of just and fair laws, promptly and thoroughly executed.

HENRY KING.

A DISCOVERY.

She stood before the cheval glass,
 And tucked two roses in her bodice,
 A rare and fair and radiant lass,
 A wingless Love, a modern Goddess;
 The pride of race was in her face,
 A queenly grace in every movement,
 A very angel gowned in lace,
 From heaven sent for earth's improvement.

A glorious light leaped in her eyes
 As thus she poised before the mirror,
 A look of sudden glad surprise.
 That brought the skies of Adien nearer;
 She smiled—she spoke—the roses heard,
 And blushed in manner most alarming:
 "Gee-whiskers! ain't I just a bird?
 I didn't know I *was* so charming!"

Fresh country milk at Central Milk Depot, 134, south 11.

Pants made to order at HURLBUT & Co's 118, north 11.

When the ice man comes be sure the name LINCOLN ICE CO. is on the wagon, they have no pond ice. 1040 O Street.

We are selling all summer suitings at cost.
 JECKELL BROS., 119 North Thirteenth Street.

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